

سكنا عنة الامم

New U.S.-Iran hostage talks reported

LONDON (AP) — A British newspaper reported Saturday that the United States has begun new talks with Iran about releasing American hostages held in Lebanon. The Guardian newspaper, quoting unidentified sources in west Beirut, said the talks were being held in Lebanon and Geneva. The talks in Lebanon were with the pro-Iranian Hizbollah party, but those in Geneva were directly with the Iranians, it said. The Guardian said the talks were not expected to produce quick results for nine American hostages, but to "accelerate inexorably" as the American presidential elections approach in November. The United States is thought to be seeking a "package deal" that involves Church of England envoy Terry Waite, the Guardian said. Waite is credited with helping gain the release of three Americans held by captors in Lebanon. He has not been seen since leaving his Beirut hotel room in January 1987 to continue his negotiations for the release of other hostages. No one has claimed responsibility for his disappearance. Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie reiterated his opposition Saturday to reaching deals with kidnappers, but remained hopeful the hostages would eventually be released.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Cabinet approves JEA budget

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Saturday passed the budget of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the JEA's final accounts for 1987. The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, also approved two draft laws; one establishing a Jordanian corporation for the investment of state funds in local projects and another amending the law of supplies by which civil courts would replace military courts in looking into violation to the law. The Council of Ministers also approved an amendment to the telephone cables law and another amendment to the Amman municipality court law.

Kuwaiti official arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Sheikh Ibrahim Al D'ej Al Sabah, chairman of the board and director general of the General Corporation for Agricultural and Fisheries Affairs in Kuwait, arrived in Amman Saturday at the invitation of Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmoud. During the visit, Sabah will meet with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Deputy Prime Minister Thaqan Al Hindawi. He will also hold talks on means to enhance agricultural relations between Kuwait and Jordan.

Waldheim begins Saudi visit

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim received a warm welcome when he arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday for a three-day visit aimed at boosting economic ties. Waldheim, accompanied by Foreign Minister Alois Mock and State Industry Minister Rudolf Streicher, was met by King Fahd at the airport of the Red Sea port of Jeddah.

Bahrain emir heads for Algiers

BAHRAIN (R) — The emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, left for Algiers Saturday to attend the Arab summit opening June 7, the Gulf News Agency said. The Bahraini delegation at the summit will include the foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Mahmood Ahmad Al Alawi, financial affairs adviser to the prime minister, Communications Minister Ibrahim Hamidan and Information Minister Tariq Al Moayyed.

S. Africa offers to host Angola talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa invited Angolan negotiators Saturday to come to Pretoria or Cape Town for their next round of peace talks. It also said South African negotiators would be willing to go to the Angolan capital, Luanda, but rejected Angolan requests that the talks be shifted back to Europe. The site of the next meeting has become a bone of contention, threatening to stall talks which began in London on May 3 and continued in Brazzaville, Congo, May 13.

Blast reported at Gorky rail station

MOSCOW (R) — An explosion at a railway station in the city of Gorky caused deaths and injuries and damaged several buildings Saturday, the Soviet news agency TASS reported. The morning blast occurred in one of the wagons of a freight train as it pulled into the station in the city, 400 kilometres east of Moscow. TASS said, Gorky is closed to foreigners. TASS said there was "loss of life," but did not say how many people had been killed.

Ecuador's air chief, Israeli attaché die in plane crash

QUITO (R) — Ecuador's air force commander, nine of his staff and an Israeli military attaché were killed in a plane crash in Quito Friday, a military communiqué said. It said the plane, an FAE-086, left Taura air force base on the east coast of Ecuador at 5:28 p.m. local time (2228 GMT) and crashed at approximately 6:18 p.m. (2318 GMT).

Shultz briefs King on Moscow summit

U.S., Jordan review prospects for peace

By Najwa Najjar and Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at Al Nadwa Palace and Shultz briefed the King on the American assessment of the Moscow summit regarding world issues and regional issues, most important of which was the Middle East problem.

The Jordan News Agency (Petra) reported that Shultz said the United States was committed to continuing efforts towards reaching a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Petra said Shultz also reiterated the United States' commitment to the basic provisions of the Reagan initiative of 1982 to reach a Middle East peace settlement, including the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

The meeting was also attended by an official American delegation accompanying Shultz and the American ambassador to Jordan.

Petra did not elaborate on the substance of the meeting. In an arrival statement, Shultz said he had returned to Jordan to keep his peace proposal alive focusing on "an equitable, lasting and comprehensive peace between Arabs and Israelis."

Shultz said implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 and addressing the political rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's security concerns remained the key elements of the peace settlement advocated by the U.S. The concept of "exchange of territory

boundaries. It involves identity, aspirations, legitimacy and history," Shultz said.

"For all this to work, there must be Palestinian-Israeli accommodation. This is not a matter of winner-take-all, in which one side can win everything it wants. Palestinians and Israelis must learn to treat each other decently, respect their mutual right to live in security and fulfill their political aspirations."

Soviet stand

Despite the conciliatory approach evident in the statement, Palestinian leaders and analysts said they found no fundamental change in the American approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Some said they had expected some change in the U.S. stand, particularly after last week's superpower summit in Moscow, where Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Washington and Moscow were drawing closer on means to settle the Middle East problem after remaining split over years.

Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk told the Jordan Times that no "material" change in the American stand

for peace" as contained in Resolution 242 should "apply to all fronts," he said.

However, Shultz refrained from directly addressing the thorny issue of the extent of the perceived Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, but said "the pace of... implementation (of territorial withdrawal) and the nature of the relations that will exist across borders — all these issues are issues for negotiations among the parties themselves."

Shultz conceded that there can be no settlement without addressing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and Israel's "security concerns as well as those of other states in the region."

"The Arab-Israeli conflict is more than just a dispute over

(Continued on page 2)

Diplomats laud Jordan's comments on disarmament

NEW YORK (Petra) — A number of diplomatic delegations accredited to the United Nations have lauded the address that Abdullah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative at the U.N., delivered Friday at the third extraordinary U.N. General Assembly session on disarmament, on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein.

The address focused on the need to ensure commitment to the sublime humanitarian principle which the U.N. adopted since its establishment. It also stressed that the Arab-Israeli dispute was basically caused by the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the Zionist state's rejection of the Palestinian people's rights to their homeland.

The address also warned against the dangers posed by Israel's nuclear build-up to the Middle East and called for keeping the region free from the weapons.

The King said that the Arab-Israeli conflict was the most dangerous in the region and has been responsible for instability over the past 40 years.

In the absence of international will, Israel has been able to maintain its occupation of Arab territories — the heart of the problem, he said.

"The situation has become more dangerous since Israel introduced nuclear weapons to the Middle East," the King's message said. "It has been building up its nuclear capabilities since the 1950s and is continuing to develop and expand them so that it now represents a terrible threat not only to the Middle East, but to the world as a whole."

He said Israel was trying to acquire, develop and accumulate nuclear weapons without according to the Non-Proliferation Treaty or allowing its nuclear installations to be supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The King also supported establishment of nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, Latin America and other parts of the world.

A handful, including one of the five who went on trial Saturday, are still at large.

Three explosions in April and May targeting the Saudi national airlines, the American rental car agency Avis and the Kuwait Airways office were the latest acts of sabotage in this country.

Iraq reports hitting ship

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked a large ship in the Gulf Saturday, scoring an accurate and effective strike near a tanker holding area east of Iran's main northern Kharg Island oil terminal.

A military spokesman said the aircraft struck the "large naval target" — Baghdad's term for an oil tanker or merchant ship — at 10:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) and returned safely to base.

"The attack was aimed at cutting the oil arteries of Iran and to prohibit it from using oil to serve its aggressive plans," the spokesman said.

Iraq last reported hitting a ship May 16, two days after its warplanes bombed the world's largest ship, the 564,739-tonne Seawise Giant, and three other tankers at the Iranian oil terminal at Larak Island 800 kilometres down the Gulf.

Iraq said Saturday that its forces threw back an Iraqi attack on positions in the mountains of north-east Iraq and killed or wounded more than 200 Iraqis.

It also repeated denials that it tried to bomb President Saddam Hussein's family home, saying Baghdad wanted to restart the war of the cities.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a Revolutionary Guards statement as saying the Iraqis launched their attack in the Darbandikhan region Friday. It said 35 Iraqis were taken prisoner.

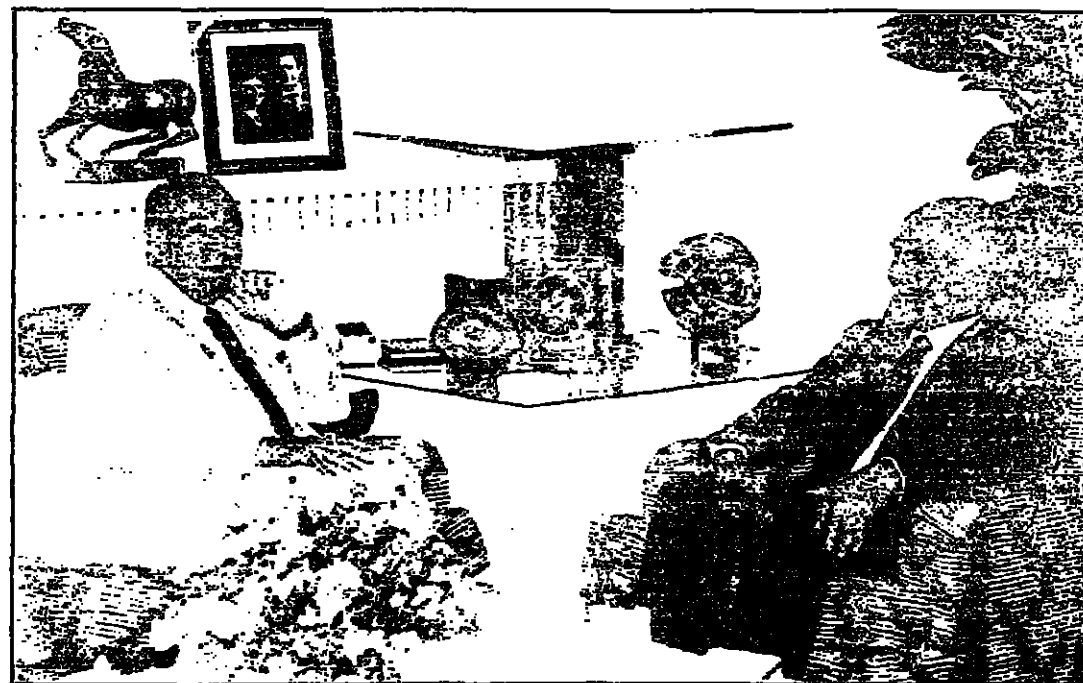
Tehran again denied that one of its F-4 Phantoms tried to bomb Hussein's home at Al Oujja village near the town of Tikrit, 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, Friday.

Iraq said the plane missed its target and dropped its bombs nearby. It did not say whether Hussein or his family were at home but threatened "crushing retaliation" at some future date for what it termed an attempt to resume the war of the cities.

The defendants are accused of trying to carry out a number of crimes including plotting the assassination of personnel of the state security department, making explosives with the aim of committing crimes, the sabotage of buildings and installations and killing people inside, and using force and violence against officers of the central prison, the indictment said.

The indictment did not say when the incident at the central prison occurred or specify the target of the assassination bid.

The five were the latest batch of a series of Shiite groups who appeared before the state security court over the past 16 months on charges of carrying out acts of



His Majesty King Hussein holds talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Palestinians shut down occupied territories with anti-Shultz strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians shut down the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza for a second day Saturday to protest the Middle East visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a 55-year-old Palestinian woman in the Gaza Strip's Nusseirat refugee camp as troops broke up a protest, a local reporter said.

Palestinians closed their stores and did not run buses or taxis in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. Arab Jerusalem also was closed by the strike.

The Israeli army maintained curfews and closures on at least six towns and refugee camps with 120,000 residents in an attempt to block demonstrations.

In the West Bank village of Shuyukh, residents held a procession in memory of 20-year-old

Mustafa Ahmad Halaika who was shot to death Friday by unidentified Israeli settlers.

About 250 villagers marched and many waved Palestinian flags in the village near Hebron, according to AP photographer Martin Cleaver.

An army officer killed another Palestinian later Friday, when his military patrol was surrounded by protesters and stoned in Tzafa village near Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, the Israeli army said.

Hospital officials in the Gaza Strip said 11 people were brought to Shifa hospital suffering from tear-gas inhalation, six suffering from beatings and three from rubber bullet wounds following demonstrations in the refugee camps of Shatty, Al Bureij and Nusseirat and in Beit Hanoun and several neighbourhoods of Gaza City.

Police said they suspected

Palestinians started two brush fires Saturday in the Beit Shemesh area west of Jerusalem. Last month \$4 million worth of damage was caused by fires south of Jerusalem.

Leaflets began circulating Saturday in the occupied territories signed by the Islamic Resistance Movement and calling for an escalation in protests against Israeli occupation.

The leaflet called June the "month of damnation to the occupation."

"We should continue the uprising for a long time," said the leaflet. "We should not heed any voices calling for ending the uprising or making it less important."

The pamphlet called for using "stones, slingshots, sticks, molotov cocktails and empty hands" to resist Israeli rule.

Reagan sees greater East-West trust

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan said Saturday his visit to Moscow sowed "seeds of freedom and greater trust" that he believes will take root and grow in ways yet unguessed.

In his weekly radio address, the president reviewed his summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, from which he returned Friday after a stopover in London.

Appearing rested after his first night back in the White House, Reagan was seen walking from his residential quarters to the Oval Office in a jogging outfit.

Noting recent Soviet reforms, the president said: "It is my hope that what took place in my Moscow visit will lead to still greater

individual freedom for peoples in the Soviet Union."

"If anyone had suggested even as recently as 10 years ago that an American president would one day be able to meet with Soviet dissidents inside Moscow itself, or be able to speak to Soviet students in their own university about human freedom, well, I think you'll agree that a prediction like that would have been dismissed," Reagan said.

"But this past week, it happened," he added. "Seeds of freedom and greater trust were sown, and I just have to believe

that, in ways we may not even be able to guess, those seeds will take root and grow."

Late Friday, after arriving back in the United States, Reagan said he was a little tired but "exhilarated at what has happened."

"Exhilarated, too, at the thought of the future and what may lie ahead for the young people of America and all the world," he said. "The events of this week in Moscow were momentous. Not conclusive perhaps, but momentous. And believe me, right now momentous will do just fine."

Gorbachev briefs Najibullah

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev briefed Afghan President Najibullah Saturday on his summit meeting with President Ronald Reagan, TASS news agency reported.

Gorbachev and Najibullah, who stopped over in Moscow on his way to a special U.N. session on disarmament in New York, also discussed the situation in Afghanistan, from which Soviet forces started withdrawing May 15, TASS said.

The two leaders said they wanted to further develop their cooperation in various fields, TASS said.

The TASS dispatch said Najibullah "spoke highly" of Gorbachev's summit meeting with Reagan, which ended in Moscow Thursday. It said Gorbachev and Najibullah touched on the Afghan government's attempts to end the civil war in that country and cooperation between Kabul and Moscow.

The Soviet Union began pulling its estimated 115,000 troops out of Afghanistan May 15 under an international agreement signed in April in Geneva.

Ligachev says entire Soviet leadership committed to reform

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Kremlin ideologist Yegor Ligachev dismissed suggestions of differences in the Soviet Communist Party leadership and said Saturday the entire politburo was committed to reform.

"Adversaries in the west, and some people in our country too, are making allegations about differences among the Soviet leadership in the politburo," TASS news agency quoted Ligachev as saying during a visit to the Volga city of Togliatti.

"What can be said about that?"

In the first place, these allegations have been made more than once, which means that they are being made deliberately," he said.

"Trying to drive a wedge among the leadership is a notorious trick."

Ligachev emphasised that all members of the leadership were deeply committed to party chief Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" (restructuring) drive to reshape Soviet society and were devoting all their energies to implementing the policy.

India to begin troop pullout from Sri Lanka next week

COLOMBO (R) — India is to withdraw part of its 52,000-strong peacekeeping force from Sri Lanka next week, Sri Lankan Defence Ministry officials said Saturday.

They said army chiefs from both countries met Saturday to discuss details of a phased pullout of troops and equipment no longer needed in the fight against Tamil rebels in the north and east.

Next week's withdrawal could begin as early as June 7 or 8, they said.

Indian high commission (embassy) spokeswoman Primrose Sharma said she could neither confirm nor deny the process would begin next week but added

that "departure of some of the troops is very much on the cards."

Military analysts said the withdrawal would help President Junius Jayewardene appease hardliners from the majority Sinhalese community in the south, where the Marxist People's Liberation Front (JVP) launched a violent anti-government campaign after the signing of an Indian-Sri Lankan pact last July.

The JVP opposes the pact, which is aimed at ending a separatist war by minority Tamils and is enforced by Indian soldiers now hunting down Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrillas.

Arab media pay tribute to King

CAIRO (Petra) — The Cairo daily Al Ahran published an article Saturday paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for bringing about consensus among Arab leaders and for His Majesty's relentless efforts to end Arab divisions.

The paper attributed the current positive situation in the Arab World and the trend towards ending disputes to the King's continued efforts.

It said the King's efforts were being assisted by those of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The King's efforts and Jordan's national stand were also lauded by the president of the Arab News Agencies Federation, Barjes Al Barjes.

In a message he sent to Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh, Barjes expressed the federation's appreciation of Jordan's endeavours in support of the Palestinian people's cause and in other matters concerning the Arab Nation.

Saeh urges joint Arab stand, return of Egypt

RIYADH (Petra) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saeh has called on the Arab leaders to come up with a formula for supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Speaking in Riyadh, Saeh said that the Arab leaders meeting the June 7 Algiers summit ought to adopt a unified stand and proper measures proving the concrete stand of the Arab World on the Palestinian problem.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Sheikh Saeh said, appreciates Egypt's role under President Hosni Mubarak despite the organisation's opposition to the Camp David agreements.

He said no-one can ignore Egypt's role and weight in any collective Arab action and therefore the PLO welcomes Egypt's attendance at the Algiers summit.

Kampala, rebels sign peace pact

KAMPALA (R) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has signed a peace agreement with the Uganda People's Democratic Army (UPDA), one of two main rebel groups fighting his government in the north and east of the country.

Radio Uganda said Museveni and Lieutenant-Colonel John Angelo Okello, the military commander of the UPDA, signed the peace agreement in the northern town of Gulu Friday.

Museveni, 43, said at the ceremony, witnessed by religious leaders, that his government favoured peace with justice, rather than war, the radio said.

"The peace which the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) cherishes is based on principles. The NRM is ready to solve the conflicts in Uganda on the basis of principled and peaceful methods and does not tolerate and condone wrongs," he said.

Friday's peace agreement, which was rejected in advance by the UPDA's leader in exile, Eric Otema Allimadi, is expected to bring 4,000 to 6,000 guerrillas out from the bush in northern Uganda.

Since the end of March, when a draft peace agreement was reached between the two sides at Gulu, there has been a truce while UPDA guerrillas gathered at a nearby camp.

They are now due to be screened and those found fit will be integrated into the government's National Resistance Army. The rest will be given assistance to resettle into civilian life.

Museveni's government is also holding peace talks with the other rebel movement in Uganda, the Uganda People's Army.



On-board live music entertainment during the two-hour train ride.

Fun ride on a steam train

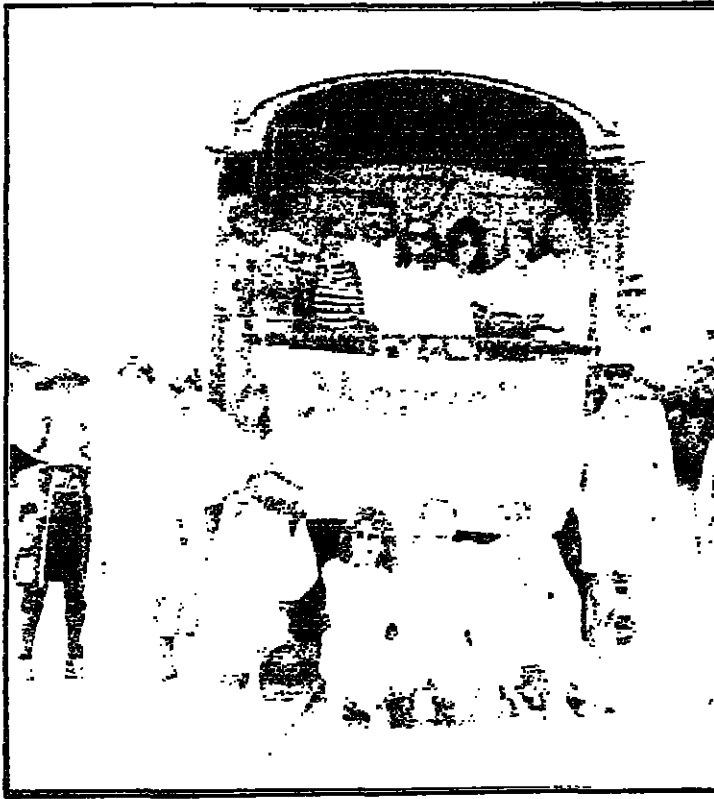
Photos by Jordan Times Staff

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 8 leading journalists representing major publishing houses in the U.K. and the U.S.A. spent the past week in Jordan at the invitation of the Amman Marriott Hotel. The visit was another feature of British Week which took place at Amman Marriott Hotel, and aimed at offering the journalists an opportunity to see the touristic and historical attractions of Jordan in an effort to promote incentive travel.

One of the highlights of the visit was a ride on Jordan's World War One vintage steam train to Daba'a castle, for a buffet lunch at the Gibran fort.



At one of the several stops en route to Daba'a, Abu Ahmad checks the oil on his steam engine.



Invited guests and local organisers pose for a photo at the station in Amman.



Abu Ahmad, a 40-year veteran driver on the Hijaz Railway in Jordan, brings the train into Jiza station, near Queen Alia International Airport.



Marriott-style service, for a memorable journey.

U.S., Jordan review prospects for peace

(Continued from page 1)

emerged during the Moscow summit. "We wanted progress, but we did not find readiness on the American side. The Americans reaffirmed their position which is the Shultz plan," the ambassador said.

Zinchuk conceded that Washington's acceptance of Soviet participation in an international conference was a welcome development but said it was not enough and referred to the basic difference in the American and Soviet views over the nature and powers of the called-for international forum. "They are talking about something else," the Soviet ambassador said.

The U.S. believes that the international conference should be a ceremonial opening for direct negotiations between Israel and Arab states while the Soviet Union says the conference should have an effective role in negotiations.

The Soviet ambassador to Egypt, Gennadi Zhuravlev, was quoted by international agencies saying that "for the first time, the U.S. has agreed on the importance of Soviet participation in the peace process in order to solve the Middle East problem."

Zhuravlev said Washington and Moscow agreed that Israel had a right to the same level of security as other states in the region. He said the atmosphere was favourable for an international conference but there were differences in Moscow over its exact role and over Palestinian representation.

In a Moscow statement during the summit, Gorbachev emphasised that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be an essential participant in the international conference. There was no explanation to the obvious difference in the statement made Saturday by the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

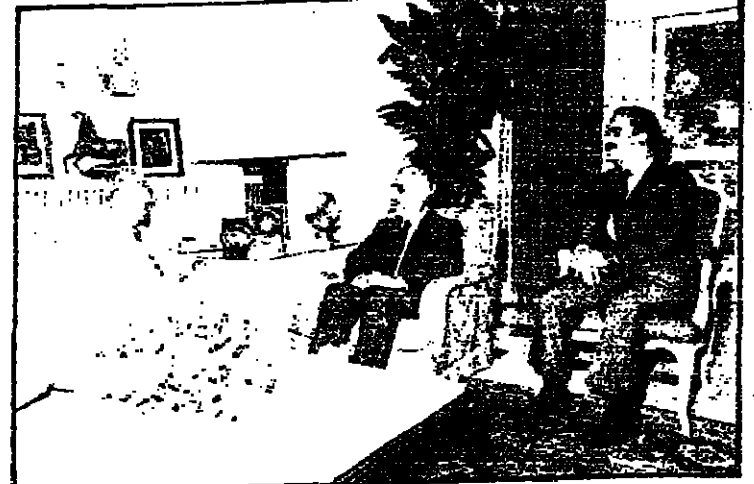
Foreign officials interviewed by the Jordan Times pointed to "the wording" of the statement issued by Shultz Saturday as a positive step. "The phrasing has been more tactically done. The order of listing of the fundamental issues seems to have changed. Usually Israeli security would be the priority, with the other two elements following," said one official who requested anonymity.

'Change of emphasis'

A journalist travelling with Shultz said: "There is a change of emphasis, not in belief... the U.S. policy is the same. Shultz lays out all the facts and reasons in hope that everyone will see the logic of it."

However, Arab analysts agreed that the statement still caters to the Israel position more than to solving the Palestinian issue. The analysts pointed out that Shultz did not address the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and had left "Palestinian political rights" as a vague statement seen as a concession to the Israelis.

"The Americans are not willing to say what they mean by Palesti-



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan confer with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Saturday (Petra photo)

nian political rights. Do they mean that Israelis should withdraw completely to the 1967 borders and that an independent Palestinian state should be created with the same rights as the Israelis?" said an analyst here who preferred not to be named.

The ambiguity has led analysts to believe that Shultz's plan has come "to help the Israelis in a time of crisis and to abort the Palestinian uprising."

The PLO has rejected the Shultz plan and Palestinians in the occupied territories have refused to meet with Shultz because of the plan makes no mention of the PLO.

Palestinian stand

PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Mithem said: "The Palestinian people have written in blood that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, self-determination is a basic right and the right to a state is a human right. As long as any power tries to bypass or alter these principles, then there is no seriousness of intention for a just, peaceful and durable solution."

Mithem referred to the American constitution, which 20 years ago adopted the principle of human rights and self-determination. "I think it is time for the U.S. to return to these principles and not to miss an opportunity for an international peace conference."

He said such a move would be especially positive after the Moscow summit, the easing of the "cold war" and implementation of regional solutions.

Shultz's talks in Cairo

Before arriving in Jordan, the U.S. secretary of state discussed his plan with Egyptian leaders Saturday. Shultz told reporters in a departure statement from Cairo that he and President Hosni Mubarak discussed "the various elements of the peace initiative" and also the Arab summit meeting next Tuesday in Algiers.

Upon his arrival in Cairo Friday, Shultz urged Israel and Arabs to bury "prejudices, hatred and overblown dreams in favour of a negotiated settlement."

"Too often, people become convinced that only their dream or their causes are legitimate," Shultz said. "They deny the rights of others. They avoid the realism

on the ground."

"The conflict is not the fault of one party or the other. No party has sole responsibility for solving it. There are no cheap or painless fixes. No one can avoid taking difficult steps," Shultz said.

Shultz, on his fourth regional peace mission this year, returned to Cairo from Amman for more talks with Mubarak over dinner.

In a session with Egyptian editors before flying to Amman, Shultz said: "The situation remains one in which there are great problems."

Shultz said President Reagan wants to "accomplish as much as he can and to leave as much of a constructive base for his success as possible."

The administration has less than eight months to go. "He says: 'as any good actor knows, you save your best scene for the last act,'" Shultz said.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday Shultz would brief him on developments in the Soviet position on the Middle East following the super-power summit in Moscow.

Shultz arrives in Israel Sunday. "We will hear from him (Shultz) what he learned, what is new in his contacts with Arab factors and with the Soviet Union," Shamir told Israel Radio.

"We will try together to analyse the situation and arrive at common conclusions as to what can and needs to be done to advance peace in the Middle East," he said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday Gorbachev had made important statements at this week's Moscow summit in calling for Palestinian self-determination.

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the end of 40 days of mourning for his assassinated military deputy, Khalil Al Wazir, Arafat also referred to Reagan's strong human rights stand during the Moscow summit.

"I invite Reagan, who spoke of human rights in the Soviet Union, to go himself and see the human rights situation in the occupied territories," Arafat said.

He said that 358 Palestinians had died in the uprising which began last December in the West Bank and Gaza, with 9,800 wounded and 20,000 taken prisoner.

A total of 658 women had suffered miscarriages as a result of beatings or riot gas, he added.

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22:00 Religious series
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19:00 News in French
19:15 Les Satellites à la une (documentary)
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
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20:30 Check it Out
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23:10 Richman, Poorman

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Jordan marks World Environment Day today

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan today joins other countries in observing the World Environment Day and the anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which was established in 1972.

On the eve of the anniversary, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber issued a statement in which he appealed to citizens in urban and rural regions of Jordan to help protect the environment and stop the encroachment of deserts on arable land through afforestation programmes, planting of more trees and preventing pollution in all fields of life.

The minister called on the international community to help end Israel's programme for building settlements in the occupied Arab lands which, he said, are causing deep changes in the natural environment and sapping the

land's resources. Jaber said Jordan looks forward to achieve a balance between the residents of urban and rural regions and bring about a comprehensive and integrated development that can contribute towards the protection of the environment.

The introduction of advanced sciences and technology in life, the minister noted, has brought about a disturbance and an imbalance within the environment, and the society is bound to pay a high price for further tampering with nature and a disruption of the balance of nature.

UNEP aims to maintain a constant watch on the changing state of the environment, to analyse the trends, to assess the problems related to environment and to promote projects leading to environmentally sound development.

6 artesian wells to be drilled in Rweished

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Saturday signed an agreement with a local company to drill six artesian wells in the Rweished district near the Iraqi border.

The wells, four to be productive and two experimental, are part of the ministry's plans to develop the Rweished district and to carry out pilot projects there in the course of implementing the Jordanian part of the Hammad Basin project.

The project Director Mohammad Al Shakhateh said the government embarked on initial stages of the project early last year and that a total of 750,000 hectares in the Rweished area were included in the development plans in the first phase.

The whole Hammad area is divided among Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria, and the four countries are cooperating in the basin project, but each country is implementing the project in its own section.

Shakhateh said 27,000 people

now live in the Hammad Basin of whom 14,200 are settled while the rest are bedouins.

The new project, he said, is bound to help the bedouins to settle down.

By the end of last month, the governor of Mafrqa said that tenders have been announced for building earth dams and drilling wells at Rweished and that a JD 3.6 million will be spent on the Jordanian side of the Hammad Basin development scheme, which is being carried out to raise the living conditions of the local population.

The area is generally poor in vegetation due to insufficient rainfall which averages 70 to 80 millimetres a year. But the project director said the new wells and the shrubs which will be planted will help create pasture land for animals, paving the way for an increase in livestock wealth and agricultural production.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hamoud and the company's manager.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

INTERCHANGE REOPENED: The interchange at the Ministry of Interior Circle in Amman was re-opened for traffic Saturday following the construction of a 400-metre tunnel and a 430-metre long bridge to facilitate the flow of traffic. It took the Indian construction firm Uttam Singh Dugal 30 months to complete the work at the interchange and at the other one near the Sports City which was inaugurated on May 25 by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

TELEPHONE BILLS: Telephone subscribers with bills dating back to 1986 will be able to pay their dues by monthly instalment to the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) in accordance with a decision taken by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan. The minister said that those wishing to pay under this arrangement will have to apply to the TCC before the end of the month and those failing to do that will be liable to have their subscription terminated.

INDONESIAN ENVOY: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Saturday received Indonesian Ambassador in Amman Sumario Sorio Kosomo. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two countries.

QUBBAJ NAMED FOR AWARD: The Ministry of Information has nominated Mr. Mazen Qubbaj for the UNESCO Rural Information Award in 1989. Qubbaj who is an assistant director of Radio Jordan has been running an information programme through radio and television for rural areas in Jordan for more than 20 years. Candidates for the award, which is granted biennially, should have worked in the field of information and communications in the press, radio or television benefiting rural regions. The winner receives \$20,000.

INFORMATION SEMINAR: Jordan took part in a seminar on information for development which was held in Cairo. Thirteen Arab countries, which were represented at the seminar, issued a statement underlining the importance of a pan-Arab strategy to confront foreign ideologies considered alien to Arab society and harmful to Arab thinking.

SUDANESE OFFICERS: The Civil Defence Department (CDD) has opened a training course for a group of 10 Sudanese officers. CDD Assistant Director Major General Mahmoud Al Tal addressed the opening session paying tribute to the excellent relationship between Jordan and Sudan and the Civil Defence authorities in particular. He said this is the third such training course to be organised for non-Jordanian officers in Jordan.

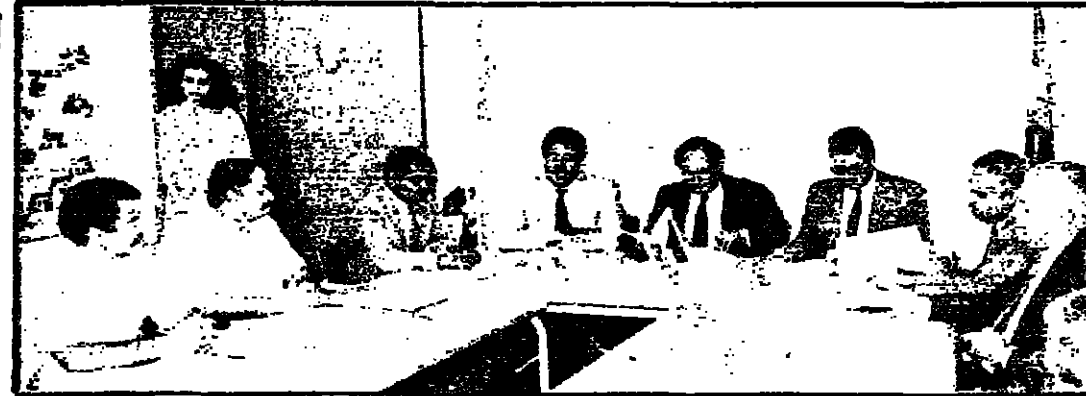
AJLOUNI IN IRAQ: Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni who is on a visit to Iraq met in Baghdad Saturday with Iraq's Information Minister Latif Nasif Jasem. They reviewed bilateral relations and discussed current Arab affairs. Ajlouni voiced Jordan's admiration for the Iraqi successes in the Fao and Shalamah battles that led to their liberation from Iranian occupation.

JEA PROJECT: The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has supplied electric power to the Dubbeh Hanout village to benefit some 600 residents. The project entailed linking the village with the national grid with a 33 kilovolt line extending 23 kilometres and setting up transformer stations and 150 electric posts. The whole projects cost JD 250,000.

EDUCATIONAL AIDS: The Department of Education Zarga Saturday opened an exhibition of educational aids and photographs to mark the Kingdom's Independence Day. The three-day exhibition displays also students drawings which depict the Jordanian environment and lifestyle in the country.

USS SIMPSON: The U.S. navy ship USS Simpson will pay a port call in Aqaba from June 6 to 8, 1988. Ships of the U.S. Navy's Middle East Force regularly call at Aqaba as part of their routine port visits to friendly states in the region. The USS Simpson is an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate. While in Aqaba, officers of the ship will pay calls on military and civilian officials.

U.S. SCHOLAR TO SPEAK: Dr. Thomas Stauffer, adjunct professor for energy studies at Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies, will be visiting Amman on June 7 and 8 under the auspices of the American Cultural Centre's Speakers Programme. During his visit the Natural Resources Authority will host two public lectures by him. On Tuesday, June 7 at 12 noon, Dr. Stauffer will speak on "Natural Resources Availability" at the offices of the Natural Resources Authority. On Wednesday, June 8, at 5:00 p.m., he will speak on "Alternative Energy Resources" in the auditorium of the Ministry of Energy. Both lectures will be in English and are open to the public.



Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid chairs a meeting at Nazek Al Hariri Special Education Centre in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

Meeting discusses draft law on developing skills of handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — A draft law on developing the skills of the handicapped in Jordan was discussed at a meeting held at the Nazek Al Hariri Special Education Centre in Amman under the chairmanship of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid.

The law was worked out by the Ministry of Social Development and will now be referred to the government for endorsement.

The draft law comprises 16 articles designed to organise and develop means and methods for the rehabilitation of the hand-

icapped in the kingdom.

Participants in the meeting included representatives from a number of concerned ministries and organisations working for the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

ARC board discusses expansion

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Aqaba Railway Corporation (ARC) board of directors held a meeting Saturday to discuss means for expanding the corporation's operations, to enable trains to transport additional amounts of phosphate from the mines in southern Jordan to the port of Aqaba for export.

The corporation's Director General Murtada Qatamin said last month that the ARC was involved in renewing the railway in three stages, and is now in the middle of the second stage which will be completed by the end of 1988.

At its meeting Saturday, the board reviewed progress on the project which entails renewing a 116-kilometre-long rail between Batn Al Ghoul and the port city in the south.

Trains used by the corporation transport phosphate from the mines, but more locomotives and train carriages will be needed once the Shideh Mine becomes fully operational, according to Qatamin.

"Shideh is 39 kilometres away from the existing railway and there will be need to link the present rail network with the

Shideh complex to carry the phosphate," Qatamin added.

Qatamin also complained about shortages in the number of technicians and the lack of proper maintenance for the locomotives and the compartments.

He said the ARC used to have 82 Indian maintenance workers, but now it has only 11, who are considered as specialists helping the local technicians.

It was due to the presence of phosphate in the south that prompted the ARC to expand its rail network, which was first established in 1972.

Ministry of Finance to establish centres at Naour, Jabal Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Finance is establishing a centre at Naour, west of here, and another at Jabal Hussein in Amman to help carry out work normally undertaken by the ministry.

The Naour office will be charged with registering plots of land and collecting income tax. It

will also collect fees on plots of land, buildings and other real estate.

The office will cover Naour, Rawdah, Um Al Basatin, Al Samek, Masouh, Ziyoud, Hisban and Um Al Kundum.

The office in Jabal Hussein will undertake the procedure to assess

the value of real estate and collect taxes and fees on buildings and plots of lands from residents in Jabal Hussein, Nuzha and Wadi Haddadeh.

The ministry has established other offices to alleviate its own work in a number of other regions.

RSS, Hungary sign cooperation pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and Hungary have concluded an agreement to promote and develop scientific and technological cooperation between them, in accordance with a trade and economic cooperation protocol signed by the two sides in 1976.

The announcement came in the society's monthly News Bulletin,

RSS News, which said the two sides will cooperate in joint research projects on subjects of mutual interest.

They will exchange technicians, engineers and experts from research institutes, exchange scientific information, publications and documentation, organise bilateral scientific symposia and

technical workshops.

The two sides will establish contacts between Jordanian and Hungarian institutions through the RSS and the Hungarian technical centre, Medico.

According to the bulletin, the agreement will come into force immediately and remain valid for five years.

Kingdom registers 3.8 per cent population growth

Jordan seeks to moderate big family tradition

By Jamal Halaby
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mohammad Omar held his youngest grandson Samir, sipped from a cup of tea and surveyed the 26 children and grandchildren around him. "I wish I could have more children," he told the Jordan Times.

"My two wives are too old to get pregnant now and I am thinking of getting married for a third time," said the 60-year-old construction worker, father of 21 and grandfather of 10.

Families like Omar's are not uncommon in Jordan, where married women average 7.1 children during their lifetimes. His Majesty King Hussein has 12 children.

But the Health Ministry and women's federation have begun a campaign to moderate the big-family tradition in order to improve health for mothers and infants.

This country of 2.7 million people has a fertility rate second only to that of Kenya, and a yearly population growth of 3.8 per cent, according to Minister of Health Dr. Zaid Hamzeh.

"Our experience with large families is exciting — we love big families," said Haifa Al Bashir, president of the Jordanian Women's Federation.

Bashir, a mother of six herself, said Jordanians believe that a child is *barakah*, a gift from God. "This is God's will," said Omar, who praised God for his many children.

Omar lives a five-room house in the village of Sakeb, 120 kilometres north of Amman, with his two wives, Samiha and Fatima, as well as 21 children and grandchildren.

Islam, as interpreted by Islamic scholars permits Muslim men to have as many as four wives at one time, although most Jordanian men have only one.

The Health Ministry and the

Women's Federation began their campaign several months ago with educational seminars and articles in local newspapers.

They stressed child spacing rather than birth control or population reduction — touchy subjects in a traditional society.

"The idea of family planning came late," the federation president said. "Even if we thought about it earlier, it would not have been accepted by rural communities."

But Bashir said "higher standards of living are possible only with smaller families."

Jordan, which experienced explosive economic growth in the late 1970s and early 1980s, is now struggling to find jobs for a labour force growing by nearly 5 per cent a year, fed both by the birth rate and women entering the labour force.

Hamzeh said a study by his ministry showed that uneducated women give birth to an average of nine children, while those with an education equivalent to a high school degree average 3.2.

"We are concerned about a safe motherhood and childhood," Hamzeh said, "we want healthy mothers and healthy babies, not sick mothers and lots of kids."

The health minister expressed concern that a "repeated number of pregnancies, without a relaxation period of at least 16 months, might endanger the mother's life."

Another concern is the infant mortality rate. The minister said child spacing among educated women had helped reduce infant mortality rate from 120 per 1,000 to 50 per 1,000 in nine years. "It is not a crime to guide those mothers on how to raise healthy and happy children and we have the means to help," Hamzeh said.

Jordan has offered free contraceptive pills and intrauterine devices through mother and child care centres, since 1972. There



Mohammad Omar (centre rear) stands amid members of his family. He has 21 children and 40 grandchildren (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

are now 119 such centres around the country, offering counselling and medical advice.

Jordan's mufti, chief of Islamic authority, has approved the child spacing efforts, although abortion is still forbidden. At a recent seminar on child spacing, the mufti, Sheikh Izzeddin Tamimi, said contraceptives are not religiously forbidden so long as they do not affect fertilised eggs.

Hamzeh said such a finding showed that "we have the law

Banquet held to honour medical team, collect funds for Palestinians

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A banquet was held Saturday evening under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to honour members of the British medical team who worked in Palestinian refugee camps during the "war of the camps" in Lebanon.

The banquet was organised to collect funds, which would help the Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) pay for medical equipment that is urgently needed in hospitals in the occupied territories, and to give the attendees an opportunity to hear the first hand experiences of the medical members in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid deputised for the Crown Prince.

The guest speakers at the banquet were Major-General Derek Cooper, Dr. Swee Chai Ang and Miss Susan Wighton.

A member of the visiting Medical Aid for Palestinians team said that regardless of how much they offer in aid to the Palestinians they could still go home when they want to, "but it is the Palestinians who have to take it all and carry on."

In a press conference held at the Marriott Hotel Friday, Cooper who is the president of MAP, said that the idea of creating a charity society to aid the Palestinians medically emerged after the 1982 Israeli siege of Beirut and was implemented in 1984.

Susan Wighton, staff nurse at St. Leonards Hospital in London who volunteered her nursing services in August 1986 at Bourj Al

Barajneh camp in Beirut, said that MAP does not work on a political basis. She explained that "Palestinians are fighting to return to their homes, and this is not a political issue." She added that to MAP "it is a basic human right issue."

Wighton said that MAP "leaves politics to politicians, we help build hospitals and mend broken bodies."

But according to Wighton, not interfering in politics did not protect them from harassment. "In Britain we received letters telling us to 'let them (Palestinians) die'," she said. "What we went through, we feel, is minimal harassment when compared with what the Palestinians live with."

On personal experience in Beirut and the occupied territories, Swee Chai Ang, an orthopaedic surgeon and head of surgery in the Gaza Hospital in Shatila Camp during 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon relived her experience in front of reporters when she told stories of the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

Her most touching story, was of a wounded woman who had already been treated by Ang only to volunteer her blood to a young boy who was of the same blood type. After the transfusion the woman died. "She chose to die so the boy would live,"

That is apart from her own suffering when she was arrested and handed to Israeli soldiers where she was to be executed. Her sense of humour remains with her, as she recounts the story. "The only thing that saved me was that I did not look like an Arab, you cannot mistake a Chinese for an Arab."

Ang pointed out that if you work with Palestinians "you defiantly inherit their enemies but you also inherit their friends."

Ang also said that with all the publicity that four British doctors are receiving "many more, who make this organisation are forgotten." She explained that there were "over 40 Palestinian doctors who could never go home." She added that she was particularly impressed by doctors who were deported from the occupied territories and whose families were killed. "They go out to study medicine and they always come back because they have a just humanitarian cause."

The charitable organisation is on a tour of Middle East countries and were invited to Jordan to honour them for their work with Palestinians over the years. They want to collect funds for their organisation in order to set up a "long term health structure for Palestinians living in the occupied territories that would cover all villages as well as towns," Ang said.

In a concluding remark Ang said that the world was horrified at the massacre of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila. "but the world has a short memory, these things are forgotten." "It is the Palestinians who have to take it all and carry on."

Airlines warned not to use Qalandia

DAMASCUS (Petra, J.T.) — The Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) has issued a warning to all airlines against using Qalandia airport in occupied Arab Jerusalem.

An AACO statement, issued in Damascus, said that the organisa-

tion's Director General Adli Dajani served a notification to all airlines, stating that those using the occupied airport will be liable to a boycott from the Arab countries and their aircraft will be banned from landing rights in Arab airports.

The decision was taken following an Israeli announcement that the Qalandia airport will be used as a civilian airport to benefit the occupied authorities.

The decision was taken at a AACO meeting held in Damascus last week.

12,661 tonnes of agricultural products received from occupied lands in April

AMMAN (Petra) — The total amounts of agricultural products entering the East Bank from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in April 1988 were estimated at 12,661 tonnes, according to a report issued Saturday by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The report said that the occu-

pied West Bank shipped oranges, bananas, almonds, melons, carrots, onions, and eggplants to the East Bank by trucks, while the Gaza Strip shipped oranges, lemons and grapefruits during that month.

Normally agricultural products from the occupied territories, which reach here, are either sold

in the East Bank or exported to other Arab countries.

Last week the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Karachi based Islamic Chamber of Industry and Trade decided to open the way to market agricultural and industrial products from the occupied Arab territories in Muslim countries.

One son, 17 year old Zuhair,

said he enjoyed the large family, but noted some drawbacks. "It is very noisy here," he said, pointing a finger at a gaggle of laughing children playing soccer on a crowd balcony overlooking the village.

Suheir said he "cannot concentrate" on his high school exams, and said he share a bedroom with seven brothers. "You can never have privacy at this house," he said.

When Zuhair gets married, he "will never have as many kids."

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

No reason to worry

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

AFTER exactly one month, the domestic exchange market reproduced the "dollar crisis" once more. On Thursday, June 2, both supply and demand on the dollar and other foreign currencies were abruptly disrupted sending the dollar as high as 385 fils from 365 fils only the day before.

The price hike was 5.5 per cent, quite a big jump but not one that calls for panic. Share prices at the stock exchange do rise and fall at rates higher than that in one day without causing worry to either the public or the officials.

We don't make this analogy to understate the problem, but rather to give it its actual size without undue exaggeration. It is quite important though, to acknowledge the problem. Ignoring the problem, or the mere issuance of re-assurances would not cure it or make it go away. The problem should not be dismissed even if the underlying reasons were false. A rumour generated in good or bad intention, or the delay for several days in receiving an installment of Arab financial aid, should not, in normal and healthy conditions, cause a crisis of confidence or give reason to a rush on dollars

or other currencies, and create artificial scarcity.

Following the first crisis on May 2, we predicted the Jordan dinar would overcome and wither the crisis, and that everything would get back to normal. We then trusted that the government was quite aware of the importance and far-reaching dimensions and consequences of what had happened, irrespective of the validity of the reasons which led to it. We also hoped that the breathing time will be used to take necessary and systematic steps to prevent the recurrence of the problem. Unfortunately, no action in that direction was taken as officials seemed over confident and acted accordingly, i.e., they did not act. The Ministry of Finance, which is responsible for the overall financial and monetary sector did not move. The Central Bank, in charge of monetary stability in the short term kept watching and hoping that everything would be fine.

We are still of the opinion that the direct reasons which led to last Thursday's crisis were either silly or artificial, and of our own making. It is only normal that the price of the dollar should go skyrocketing when leading commercial banks, including Arab Bank,

announce that they won't sell dollars at any price despite its availability in abundance.

However, the long term reason for the crisis is the imprudent behaviour of the Treasury. It borrowed over JD 200 million during 1987, or 20 per cent of the budget, from the banking system. Banks could not secure this kind of money except by squeezing the private sector, liquidity part of their foreign assets, and increasing their liabilities in foreign currency. Although the Treasury was borrowing locally in dinars, it was effectively consuming foreign exchange as fast as it could.

We believe that the Jordanian government has the resources, the capabilities, and the space for manoeuvring, sufficient to deal with the problem and contain the crisis if it had the will to do so.

The Ministry of Finance should reconsider its expenditure policy towards prudence and responsibility. The Central Bank of Jordan must recover its position as a leader, able to check, control and direct the banking system. But above all we need credibility. Decisions and actions are no problem once we have the will to act.

Dizzy, but promising

GEORGE Shultz, like his country, is a combination of wonderful and awful elements, of enlightenment and darkness. He showed this once again in his arrival statement at Cairo airport Friday (see full text on this page). His tone was hortatory, insulting, uncalled for, incredibly naive and, all in all, best forgotten and forgiven. His attempt to balance Israeli and Arab positions is historically inaccurate and morally unfair, for it was not by the weather and wind of the Holy Land that Palestinian Arabs constituted over 92 per cent of the population of Palestine at the turn of the century, but today constitute a minority living under Israeli control. There has been a massive inflow of Israeli Jews, the decimation and dispersal of a Palestinian national community, and the large-scale denial of Palestinian rights. There is tremendous and very obvious imbalance in the rights and wrongs of the Arab-Israeli conflict insofar as events in Palestine are concerned. The Israeli Jews took the land and created a state. The Palestinians lost virtually all their human and political rights. Mr. Shultz puts on a dazzling show of his dizzy understanding of history when he attempts, in his concern to appear even-handed, to balance the rights and wrongs done in Palestine. He looks foolish, and he should drop the line from his future performances.

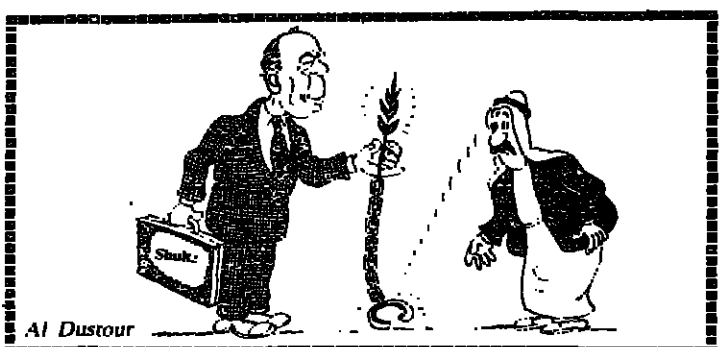
Nevertheless, he has also said some new and interesting things this week. He referred to the Arab-Israeli conflict as one of two national movements seeking sovereignty, and he talked of "Palestinian nationalism." If such phrases represent a new American appreciation of the national, political nature of the Palestinian struggle for political and human rights, then Mr. Shultz deserves some applause along with the abuse. He is also to be praised for highlighting the need for all in the region to revise their perceptions of security concepts and arrangements. These two elements are positive; coming from the American secretary of state, they are downright sparkling.

If he has summoned the courage and the honesty to talk of Palestinian nationalism, we urge him to continue on the same road, to reassess the full meaning of his call for Palestinian "legitimate rights," to wed the two together in a statement which places the United States on record as supporting Palestinian national rights, and, finally, to aspire to play the role of a genuinely impartial mediator, who seeks the implementation of both Israeli and Palestinian national rights in Palestine, rather than to continue pushing the present package of pro-Israeli concepts wrapped in moralistic bombast and suspended from a historical perspective somewhere in the Twilight Zone, if not left field itself. Mr. Shultz reminds us this week that the United States still offers a perplexing combination of hope and despair, though he still has a way to go before we see which of the two will triumph.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel's nuclear threat

IN a message to the special U.N. General Assembly session on disarmament King Hussein called on the world organisation to take effective measures to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone. Such measures, he said, would ultimately prevent Israel from manufacturing nuclear weapons and thus save this region from the horror of nuclear conflict. The world body is called on now to put an end to Israel's nuclear threat to peace and end any escalation of tension and the threat of war in the Middle East. There can be no success for world's efforts to curb disarmament unless all states abide by international agreements and there can be no way for ending the threat of war in our region unless Israel is made to end its manufacture of nuclear weapons with which it can pose danger to the human race in general and the Middle Eastern countries in particular. If Israel goes ahead with its nuclear programmes, it will sooner or later induce a dangerous situation world-wide specially in view of the Jewish state's strategic alliance with the United States. Israel's possession of nuclear weapons would sooner or later induce other countries in the Middle East to possess such weapons to deter Israel's threat, thus dangerously escalating the already explosive situation in our region. In addition Israel's nuclear arsenal is considered as an obstacle to peace because Israeli rulers feel assured of their own power and so they maintain their aggression on the Arabs and continue to occupy their lands.



Al Dustour: King points out nuclear threat

KING Hussein sent a cable to the U.N. General Assembly meeting on disarmament pointing out a number of facts, and underlining the danger inherent in Israel's nuclear programmes. The King clearly pointed to Israel's nuclear arsenal as being the cause of danger and instability in the Middle East and the world at large. With its nuclear might, Israel feels that it can go ahead with its aggressive plans against the Arabs and continue to occupy their land. Israel, which uprooted the Palestinians from their homeland and is still intent on pursuing its present iron-fist policy against the people under its rule is causing a real danger to the Middle East people and the whole world. For this reason, the King appealed to the U.N. General Assembly to stem Israel's lust for aggression and to save the Middle East region from the disasters and the consequences of conflicts and the horrors of nuclear war. The King appealed to the world organisation to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone and to try to remove all nuclear weapons from different parts of the world to save the human race from a real catastrophe. In his message, the King reiterated Jordan's deep faith in the role of the United Nations as a peace maker and as a forum where a real peace based on justice can be initiated.

Sawt Al Shaab: Collective action

KING Hussein's declared intention of attending the coming Arab summit in Algiers reflects his keenness on supporting collective Arab action and unifying Arab ranks. The King is acting in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and the desire to implement its great aspirations for the Arab Nation. Jordan was the first country to respond to a call for the first Arab summit meeting held in 1964, and has never stopped endeavours to serve Arab causes, because this country realises the dangers that are posed to the Arab Nation, and that urgent issues can only be solved through consensus among Arab heads of state. The Arab leaders realise dangers and threats posed to their nation and are keen to overcome all obstacles that impede joint Arab action. They are therefore bound to find a solution for the Iran-Iraq war and end to the conflict between the two Muslim neighbours. These leaders also realise the danger inherent in continued occupation of Arab lands and their responsibility and duty towards Palestinians involved in an uprising against the Israeli forces.

'No party has sole responsibility for Arab-Israeli conflict'

Following is the text of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's arrival statement in Cairo June 3.

I AM here to make it clear that the United States will do all it can to promote peace in the area. Egypt is the natural place to start my mission. We seek a comprehensive settlement. Everyone will need the vision, pragmatism, and determination that Egypt has brought to Arab-Israeli peacemaking over the years.

Also needed is the strength to confront reality and to shed illusions that have hindered progress for too long. During this trip I plan to focus on what is required to move us closer to the negotiating table. Too often, people become convinced that only their dreams or their causes are legitimate. They deny the rights of others. They avoid the realities on the ground. So, the United States—as a veteran of many years' encounter with the Middle East—can help our friends face up to the challenges which lie ahead.

We start with fundamental questions. What is the Arab-Israeli conflict? It is the competition between two national movements for

sovereignty on one land. The conflict is not the fault of one party or the other; no party has sole responsibility for resolving it. There are no cheap or painless fixes. No one can avoid taking difficult steps.

The continuation of the conflict today stems from the inability of Arabs and Israelis to lay aside prejudices, hatred, and overblown dreams in favour of a negotiated settlement. The fate of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism are interdependent, although many on both sides refuse to recognise this. Instead of a political dialogue among Arabs and Israelis, there is a growing tendency to sharpen differences and avoid compromise.

Negotiations work. Leaders who seize opportunities and pursue policies of accommodation achieve results. Nowhere has this been proven more dramatically than in Egypt, which recovered occupied territory and campaigned actively to advance the cause of Palestinian rights through negotiations. Others fail—those who refuse to confront reality, who reject any opportunity to move ahead, and who cling to old visions and dreams as though they were immutable laws of nature.

No one can be insured against all possible outcomes in advance of negotiations. Those who seek such guarantees in advance rule out the possibility of making real headway today—and perhaps forever. Only a new realism and sense of responsibility can break Arabs and Israelis out of the self-destructive pattern they are locking themselves into. The recognition that dreams and reality need to be reconciled is a first principle for peace in the Middle East.

In formulating ideas for bringing about negotiations, the United States has been guided by the need to address the needs and requirements of Arabs and Israelis. We have been guided by practical aspects of Middle East reality.

First, there is room—physical space—for Israelis and Palestinians to live side by side, as neighbours, in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Arabs and Israelis are not engaged in a winner-take-all competition. A fair settlement is possible, even though people have difficulty conceiving how to achieve it. It is not too late for a settlement.

Second, Israelis and Palestinians are locked into mutually reinforcing cycles of hatred, which sometimes lead to actions that contradict norms they have established to guide their own behaviour. Discrimination and segregation are incompatible with the values of democracy, freedom and liberty; violence and terrorism are incompatible with political rights, responsibilities and obligations.

Third, both sides fear entering a process in which the outcome is not known in advance. But, a creative process is what is needed and such a process requires an interplay between transitional and final status negotiations. Just as a transition can provide confidence in possible ultimate outcomes, so the existence of negotiations on the final status can make transitional arrangements work well. The idea of a transitional period, linked to final status talks, was conceived for just such a purpose.

Fourth, both sides ignore emerging global realities which require a new look at old concepts. Their definitions of political rights and obligations, boundaries, and sovereignty are outdated. An appreciation of new global realities can help resolve this conflict. Borders today are permeable and porous, indifferent to the ballistic missile and indifferent to the desire of any sovereign to shut out the outside world. A thorough reassessment of security concepts is required. Some may need to change, others may not. But one thing is clear: The location of borders is less significant today in ensuring security than the political relations between neighbours. Peace is the real answer to the problems of security.

So, it is illusions which need to be shed, but not hopes and aspirations. In a region where visionaries of millennia past shaped the moral and intellectual course of history, it is not too much to hope that visions of today be directed toward accommodation, reconciliation and peace of tomorrow.

These are among the issues I will want to discuss with our friends in the region. We need to maintain momentum and commitment toward a comprehensive peace. If we are all prepared to confront reality and face up to the challenges ahead, I am confident we can succeed.

Best-selling Soviet author talks about shadow of Stalin

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuters

NEW YORK — Soviet author Anatoly Rybakov, whose anti-Stalinist novel is a runaway best seller, can finally say something he never dared to utter when the dictator was alive.

"We will win. I have no doubt we will," the 77-year-old novelist said of the struggle that can at last be waged openly against the lingering shadow of Stalin, who died 35 years ago.

With glasnost inviting reappraisal of the past, a million copies of Rybakov's "Children of the Arbat," about life in Moscow in the 1930s when tens of thousands disappeared in purges, have sold out in the Soviet Union.

As Soviet readers await the next printing, the book is traded on the black market for "enormous sums," according to the author. An English translation has appeared to solid reviews.

"We will win," Rybakov told Reuters in a recent interview. "But we must avoid the greatest danger—passivity toward the opposition. They have a lot of power, but we will win because history stands behind us. We have no other path for the Soviet Union."

Like the hero of his novel who wrote verses for a newspaper, Rybakov was exiled to Siberia during the Stalin era.

Now, under glasnost, Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness, Rybakov is a celebrity, even a hero to reform-minded. He can travel on a Western-style book tour, complete with a stay in a luxurious hotel off Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

Symbol for struggle

Stalin died in 1953, but the fear that Stalinism engendered lives on and the battle over his "revolution from above" must be won before real change is possible, Rybakov said.

The battle of the 1930s—a time of purges, show trials, fabricated plots, executions and mass exile amid a wave of suspicion and denunciations—is a battle for the Soviet soul.

That struggle, laid out in "Children of the Arbat," has catapulted the author to the forefront of the drive for glasnost and perestroika. Gorbachev's companion policy of social and economic reconstruction.

"The novel has become the centre of the struggle between those for perestroika and those against perestroika," Rybakov, a short, heavy-set man who speaks no English, said in the interview.

Rybakov said he was still attacked in the press, particularly by such conservative journals as Molodaya Gvardiya and Nash Sovremennik.

Earlier this year an anti-perestroika manifesto, in the form of a letter to the editor, appeared in a Moscow newspaper. After it was widely reprinted, pro-reform forces fired back and the paper apologised for its "mistake."

And pro-Gorbachev Moscow intellectuals contend opponents within the Communist Party have

been manoeuvring to cut off reforms at the party conference in June that will set policy for the next 2½ years.

The battle for domestic reform is also an undercurrent at the May 29-June 2 superpower summit. Gorbachev's success or failure at the talks with President Reagan could affect future domestic developments.

"We must think freely" Rybakov said nostalgia for the iron discipline and spectacular economic gains under Stalin must be conquered.

"Our country began to lag economically, scientifically, socially, technically—and in life itself."

"The causes of that lag lie in the 1930s, in the years that Stalin reshaped industry... He put it not on an economic basis, but on an authoritarian basis, a command basis."

The terror that accompanied the forced industrialisation and the violent transition to collective agriculture left scars that have yet to heal, Rybakov said.

"Innocent people kept silent. All thought of only one thing, of Stalin, and thus they stopped thinking altogether."

"We must think freely. Only that way can we develop the creative talents of the people, their initiative. To move our society forward, we need freedom, democracy, and glasnost."

So far, the Soviet intelligentsia has provided the most support for Gorbachev's policies.

"First of all we must remake man and his psychology," said Rybakov, adding that literature, traditionally a potent force in Russian and Soviet history, has led the way.

"Literature has moved forward, while our historians are just civil servants."

The majority of his readers, Rybakov said, are young people eager to learn "the truth" about their history from the novel's portrait of the Soviet dictator.

The semi-autobiographical tale weaves together Stalin's political intrigues with the lives of a group of schoolmates who grew up in Moscow's fashionable Arbat neighbourhood, a symbol, said Rybakov, of the city's intelligentsia.

The hero, Sasha Pankratov, is an engineering student and party loyalist who writes verse in a school newspaper, runs foul of authorities, and ends up in an isolated Siberian village.

Rybakov, who began work on the novel three decades ago and suffered years of unfulfilled promises of the publication, hopes to add two more volumes in the Arbat cycle.

"Our youth, like all youth, seek moral ideals. They are told one thing at home, something else in the newspaper, a third thing on television, a fourth thing at school when they try to find the truth."

"But here is the truth," said Rybakov, slamming a large fist on the cover of his 685-page novel. "Of course, maybe it is also well-written," he added with a grin.

No, I just want to have lunch in that hotel there.

"Did you buy anything in Egypt that you didn't see being

Israel's false images

The following article by Boaz Evron appeared in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot on April 22. It is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

There is the old man in his prayer shawl, blowing the Shofar by the Western Wall, who represents the age-old dream that has come true; there is the smiling Arab with a kufiya on his head, hinting at the prosperity and education we have brought him; there is the comely woman in the traditional Arab dress with the baby in her arms, who represents the ingathering of exiles, and there is the bearded Jew with the Bukharan head-dress, representing even more ingathered exiles.

And, poised above them all, there is the beautiful girl from the kibbutz dance troupe, who looks so healthy and serene in her embroidered green dress. She carries a branch covered in leaves in her hand, which might be an olive branch, as a symbol of the state and its aspirations. Lastly, fitted into the zero of the number 40, there is the picture of a leafy Tel Aviv street at springtime.

There is the smiling soldier, apparently an oriental Jew; there is the sweet sabra boy with his kibbutz hat; there is the pretty, well-groomed girl soldier with her innocent Czech gun, a gun meant only for defence and peace, almost like a hoe.

All these images are false. The soldier has recently returned from a tour of duty in the territories, where he was breaking bones and shooting people. The man with the Shofar belongs to the "Temple Mount Faithful", who want to blow up the Mosque and replace it with a "Third Temple" even though this means that they will destroy Israel and its people by embroiling us in a bloody war against the entire Muslim world.

The Moroccan woman votes "Kach". The smiling Arab does not dare not to smile. The sweet girl soldier with the Czech gun is apparently a twenty year old picture. Today, girl soldiers carry Uzis, and their smiles are no longer innocent. They have the smiles of those who have bitten into the apple, who have known sin and corruption.

The old man from Bukhara does not know what is happening around him. The Tel Aviv street is lined with boutiques for the rich, selling goods labelled Gucci, Bege Or or Saint Laurent, each fitted into the zero of the number 40, there is the picture of a leafy Tel Aviv street at springtime.

A political curiosity awaits word of its fate

By William C. Mann
The Associated Press

TABA (AP) — Taba might be returned to Egypt in a few months, but for now, it's as Israeli as a kibbutz.

To prove it, try popping over from Egypt's Sinai for a quick lunch at the plush Aviya-Sonesta beach hotel, the only substantial structure in the tiny enclave claimed by both Egypt and Israel.

"Are you going to Israel?" asked the Egyptian policeman at the gate of a chain-link fence a few hundred yards from the white-painted, 10-story hotel.

"No," was the reply, "just to that hotel."

"That," he said, "is Israel." It took 30 minutes to complete Egypt-leaving paperwork required to get from the policeman's Egyptian gate to a similar one 75 yards away manned by an Israeli.

Lunch had to wait another 90 minutes. First came an 800-metre service bus ride past the hotel to the Israeli entry control point. Then clearance by Israeli passport control, Israeli customs searches and two Israeli security officers.

"Did anybody in Egypt give you anything to deliver in Israel?"

No, I just want to have lunch in that hotel there.

"Did you buy anything in Egypt that you didn't see being

packed?"

No, I live in Egypt. I just want to have lunch in that hotel right there.

"They didn't try to tell you in Egypt that Taba is not Israel's, did they?"

Tiny Taba is a political curiosity left over from war. At the extreme east-central edge of the Sinai peninsula where the Gulf of Aqaba ends, it fell to the Israelis in the 1967 Middle East war. They pulled out of the rest of Sinai in 1982—payment for the peace treaty that Egypt signed three years earlier—but retained Taba, a squib of 250 acres (one square kilometre) just south of Elat, Israel, and west of Aqaba, Jordan.

The crux of the competing claims is the location of Marker 91, the southernmost marker delineating British-mandated Palestine in a 1906 agreement between the British and the Ottoman empires. The Egyptians contend their maps show the marker generally where Israel's entry point is. Israel's maps put it at the Egyptian fence.

After years of contention, they agreed in September 1986 to appoint arbiters to sit down in Geneva and decide whether Taba is extreme eastern Sinai—Egypt—or extreme southern Israel.

Both sides summed up their arguments in April, and under the arbitration agreement a judgment should be issued by mid-

summer, a final, unappealable decision.

"In a few months we'll know our future," said a woman wearing the uniform of Israeli immigration control.

Before the Israelis came, Taba basically comprised a stone-and-sand beach at the end of a desert wadi.

There's still precious little here besides the Sonesta. Coiled barbed wire separates the swimming pool and volleyball courts from the road. A hill with a guard tower at the top commands one side of the hotel, across the road. On the other side are 800 yards of Gulf of Aqaba beachfront.

Egypt's leaders have said repeatedly that Israel will be ceded "not one centimetre" of Egyptian land. Thus, Taba either must be returned, or it must be adjudged not to be Egyptian.

As for the Israelis, they too undoubtedly would find a binding legal verdict more palatable than a bilateral compromise. Publicly, they say the enclave would be strategically critical for Elat should the Egyptians, the only Arabs at peace with Israel, turn hostile again.

Taba's guard tower is manned by the multinational force and observers, organised under the 1979 U.S.-brokered peace treaty, which the arbitration agreement brought into the enclave for the first time.

The implication was that until

like it you can buy as much hashish or heroin as you like behind those shops, at the street corner.

Admittedly, that smiling, democratic country with its happily ingathered exiles never really existed. However, today the glossy cover hides quite a different world than it did previously. It hides areas "closed to the press", from which the smoke of burning tyres and teargas is rising, and in which bullets are fired to kill and clubs are swung to wound. Also hidden are the public squares in which the masses of ingathered exiles express the hatred burning inside them, and the speeches and predictions of the false prophets that incite them. Behind that cover, the gaps and the hatred between rich and poor, religious and secular, Jew and Arab, easterner and westerner, are widening.

And behind it, too, is the growing number of people who feel that a vision has been blocked, that the air has become stifling, and that we cannot go on like this.

sovereignty was determined, the enclave would be a no-man's land.

Cairo never has told its people otherwise, and they can't learn first-hand because their government has forbidden them to enter until the Egyptian claim is vindicated.

Far from being a no-man's land, however, the stamp of Israel is everywhere in the enclave.

The American twang of middle-aged, hair-dyed women and open-shirted men give the hotel's poolside dining room the look of Miami or New York, except for hummus and Middle Eastern pickles on the tables.

Western women doff bikini tops around the swimming pool and on the beach. Leaving Taba for Sinai, they pass a "Welcome to Egypt" sign at the gate reminding them in English, French and Hebrew to keep on their swimsuits at the beaches.

As the immigration officer on the Egyptian side warned on the way in, the Israelis charge for leaving. Their sign reads "Sinai or Egypt? Must pay departure tax."

Immigration formalities entering Egypt are more lax than at the Israeli entry post, but forms must be completed.

"What do you expect?" asked the bored immigration officer. "You've been to another country."

FROM THE WORLD'S PRESS

U.S. funds continued Lavi programme

WASHINGTON — Nearly a year after Israel gave in to White House pressure and announced plans to scrap an ambitious U.S.-funded programme to build its Lavi fighter jet, Israeli engineers continue to work on the multibillion-dollar project — at U.S. taxpayers' expense.

An aviation engineering team at the government-sponsored Israel Aircraft Industries in Tel Aviv is putting the finishing touches on the third Lavi prototype jet — jammed with sensitive U.S. technologies — while other Lavi engineers are working on related programmes in China and South Africa, according to U.S. sources.

"The patient is on life support," said a former top-ranking Defence Department official who monitors Israeli programmes.

That support is being funded by Israel's supporters in the House of Representatives, who were successful for the second year running in authorising up to \$450 million for the Lavi in the foreign-aid package approved by the house. The foreign aid appropriations bill that the house also passed last month omits any reference to the Lavi, instead putting the money in the broad category of advanced aircraft.

Under both bills, the money would be made available whenever Israel asks for it.

An official with Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) confirmed June 2 that company engineers are completing work in the third Lavi prototype — The Washington Times.

American voters remain Israel supporters

WASHINGTON — The American electorate's support for Israel remains very high, according to a poll sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and released Thursday.

Asked whether their sympathies were more with Israel or with the Arab states, 61 per cent of the 1017 registered voters polled by phone between April 18 and 24 chose Israel and 13 per cent said the Arabs.

John Martilla, president of Martilla and Kiley, which conducted the poll, contrasted this finding with a January telephone poll done for the Anti-Defamation League, in which 47 per cent said their sympathies were more with Israel and 15 per cent chose the Arabs.

When the Anti-Defamation League had it own poll repeated in late April, however, it showed that sympathy for Israel had remained steady. The Anti-Defamation League survey gave respondents the additional options of saying their sympathies were with "neither" side or "both..." Both surveys found fundamental support for Israel combined with criticism of specific Israeli actions. Those surveyed were deeply divided, for example, over Israel's response to Palestinian demonstrations in the occupied territories, with 32 to 41 per cent judging the response too harsh and slightly larger proportions judging the response appropriate or too lenient. A New York Times/CBS News Poll of 1382 Americans conducted May 9-12 found that 34 per cent of those surveyed felt Israel was acting too harshly, 10 per cent thought it was too lenient, 22 per cent thought its actions were about right, and 34 per cent had no opinion — The New York Times.

China maintains silkworm sales to Iran

WASHINGTON — China is continuing to sell silkworm missiles to Iran despite top-level assurances to the United States from Beijing that supplies have been halted, a senior administration official, said Thursday.

The latest shipment of silkworms arrived in Iran only last month, the official said. The missiles were first sent to North Korea and were transhipped from there presumably in an attempt to conceal the deal.

The United States has made repeated protests to Beijing over silkworm sales, because they are a threat to U.S. naval forces and other shipping in the Gulf, and to Kuwait. The Chinese government routinely denies the trade. — The Washington Times.

Gandhi arrives in Syria on 3-day visit

DAMASCUS (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived in Damascus Saturday for three days of talks with Syrian leaders, the Syrian news agency (SANA) said.

Gandhi arrived to a 21-gun salute and a warm welcome and said at the airport that he looked forward to "fruitful talks" with President Hafez Al Assad, starting later in the day.

Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi and Syrian cabinet ministers met Gandhi and his wife, the agency said.

Syrian officials said Gandhi and Assad would discuss latest developments in the Middle East, including the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and next week's Arab summit in Algiers.

They said the talks would focus on relations between the two states which one official described as "more than cordial."

Official sources said Gandhi's visit had prompted U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to postpone from Saturday until Monday his trip to Damascus.

Shultz, on his fourth Middle

East tour this year, is seeking ways to start Arab-Israeli peace talks.

India, a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement, strongly backs Arab views in the Middle East and has had no diplomatic ties with Israel since the Zionist state was founded in 1948.

It believes Israel should withdraw fully from the West Bank, Gaza and the Syrian Golan Heights.

India also shares the Arab view that any Middle East peace talks should include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and address the issue of an independent Palestinian state.

Syrian newspapers hailed the strength of ties with India.

"When our friend Rajiv Gandhi adheres to the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, this underlines his support for the just struggle of the Arabs to liberate their lands and restore their rights," said the government daily Tishrin.

"(Gandhi) continues to raise the banner which the great Indian leaders raised," it said.

Washington says Libya linked to recent attacks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Groups supported by Libya are the "prime suspects" in a spate of recent attacks against Americans and U.S. facilities around the world, a State Department spokeswoman said Friday.

"There has been an upsurge in recent weeks of terrorist attacks against U.S. and other Western European interests in Europe, Latin America and Africa," spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said. "Although these incidents are still under investigation in numerous cases, the prime suspects are groups which have received support from Libya."

The suspicion, she said, is accompanied by "concrete evidence, including the seizure of Libyan arms destined for the IRA (Irish Republican Army) and the arrest in Senegal of Libyan operatives, that Libya continues its support of terrorism."

Oakley referred to reports that a weapons shipment intercepted by France last November was bound for the outlawed IRA and that suspected Libyan agents

were arrested carrying bomb-making materials in Senegal in February.

For years, Libya has been one of less than a half-dozen countries on a list of nations identified by the State Department as sponsors of "terrorist" groups. President Ronald Reagan's administration has accused Libya of fomenting "terrorism." In April 1986, U.S. warplanes attacked Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's personal living quarters in Tripoli.

The State Department did not publicly list other suspicious incidents Friday, but U.S. officials cited these others as under investigation to determine if Libya played a role.

Attacks against U.S. information agency offices in Latin America and a bombing at an American servicemen's club in Naples. These took place in April around the time of the second anniversary of the American bombing raids on Libya.

A May 10 explosion at a U.S.-owned Citibank office in New Delhi.

Qadhafi expects 'surprise' at summit

SHARJAH (AP) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi says he "does not exclude" a "surprise" on Maghreb unity at next week's Arab summit conference in Algiers, the Al Khaleej newspaper reported Saturday.

Qadhafi, in statements from Tripoli to the daily, said it related to the "greater Arab Maghreb."

He was referring to plans for unity between Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

Hopes of a merger increased after Morocco and Algeria restored diplomatic ties recently and pledged to hasten a settlement of the 12-year-old Western Sahara dispute.

Libya also ended a two-year diplomatic rupture with Tunisia last December after President Habib Bourguiba was ousted.

The summit, which starts next Tuesday, will focus on the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Qadhafi was quoted as saying that Libya seeks only to discuss the Palestinian uprising at the summit.

He said that Libya "will reject any other ideas that might be raised... and will consider them as directed against the uprising."

Qadhafi said his stand on the Arab League lifting its suspension of Egypt's membership, imposed because of Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel, had not changed.

Diplomatic sources said the Gulf war, which has raged for nearly eight years and threatens other Gulf states, was expected to be discussed at the summit.

Qadhafi, who has often tried to use his links with Tehran to mediate a settlement, said his initiative was still in motion and noted, without elaboration: "We might soon reach a reasonable solution."

Qadhafi denied reports that extremists who hijacked a Kuwait jetliner April 5 had been flown to Libya from Algiers, where they surrendered in return for safe passage to another country.

"Such rumours are meant to harm Libya in line with charges by imperialist circles which claim Libya harbours terrorists," he said.

GCC reviews course of Iran-Iraq war, stand at Arab summit

JEDDAH (R) — Arab Gulf foreign ministers gathered in this Red Sea port Saturday to discuss recent Iraqi victories over Iran on the battlefield and prospects for Gulf peace.

Ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were expected to reiterate calls for the international community to follow up United Nations Resolution 598 which ordered a ceasefire in the 7½-year-old conflict, GCC officials said.

The group is also due to coordinate positions ahead of next Tuesday's Arab summit in Algiers to discuss the six-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The GCC ministers are meeting for the first time since Saudi Arabia severed ties with Iran in April, accusing it of trying to export its Islamic revolution and stir up unrest at next month's pilgrimage in Mecca.

Officials said the Saudis would seek a general statement of support for the move while not demanding others follow suit.

The Iran-Iraq war has topped the GCC agenda since Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) formed the group in 1981.

In recent years the countries have been increasingly dragged into the conflict as their ships and some of their oil facilities and internal security became targets of Iranian missiles and threats.

GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Saif Al Maskari told Saudi newspapers in remarks published Saturday the talks would be dominated by the war and recent Iraqi victories.

Iraqi troops last April scored a major victory, retaking the Iranian occupied Fao Peninsula in a lightning campaign.

Iraq then pushed the Iranians back to international boundaries in the Shalamchah marshlands of southern Iraq last month.

Western and Arab diplomats in the Gulf said the GCC states were keen to intensify international pressure on Iran to accept a ceasefire at a time when it appeared to be militarily vulnerable.

On Friday, however, Iran's top war leader Ali Akbar Hashemi

naval presence in the Gulf designed to protect neutral shipping from Iranian attack.

Officials said the ministers were set to approve the final draft of a cooperation agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC).

The agreement, approved in principle by GCC leaders at their summit in Riyadh last December, sets a broad framework for trade, political, industrial and scientific cooperation. It is expected to be signed in Brussels later this month.

The foreign ministers will also hear committee reports on various aspects of GCC cooperation including the economy.

Finance ministers meeting in Riyadh last month discussed new measures to protect national products from foreign competition and allow GCC citizens to buy stocks throughout the six states.

U.N. airlifts staff from north Somalia

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The United Nations Friday began airlifting 160 foreigners out of the northern Somalia town of Hargeisa, which rebels claimed they overran this week.

Three light aircraft ferried 83 expatriates from Hargeisa to the nearby town of Garowe before the operation stopped because of a curfew, said the British high commission in Mogadishu, the Somali capital. The airlift was to resume Saturday.

The U.N. Development Programme was coordinating the evacuation.

British sources said once all the expatriates have reached Garowe, they will move by land or air to Mogadishu, likely Saturday.

There are 25 Britons and about 20 Americans among the 160 foreigners, diplomats said. They did not have a breakdown on the other nationalities. Most of the foreigners are aid workers.

The chairman of the Somali National Movement (SNM), Ahmad Mohammad Solanyo, told Reuters by telephone from London before the airlift was

announced that his movement would do everything possible to ensure the safety of foreigners resident in northern Somalia and would help secure their evacuation if necessary.

"As far as the foreigners in these areas are concerned, they would be completely safe on our side... we are ready to do everything possible to keep them safe and help them leave Somalia in a safe way," he said.

Saeed Yusuf, an SNM spokesman in Addis Ababa, told Reuters by telephone that rebel forces were in control of Hargeisa and Burao, 180 kilometres to the east, Thursday.

Foreign aid workers who arrived in Nairobi from Mogadishu quoted reports from colleagues in the north as saying about 1,000 people died during the rebel assault on Hargeisa.

U.S. intelligence sources said 87 government troops died in an earlier rebel attack on Burao May 27.

The SNM draws most of its support from the northern Issaq clan and has traditionally been supported by Ethiopia.

Bazargan sends strong protest to Khomeini over arrest of war critics

PARIS (AP) — The leader of Iran's only legal opposition movement has protested to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini a series of arrests prompted by letters denouncing the ayatollah's policies, according to reports reaching Paris from Tehran.

In a telegram to Iran's spiritual leader, Mehdi Bazargan took responsibility for the letters written by himself and his supporters calling for an end to the war with Iraq, the French newspaper Le Monde reported Friday.

It had been feared that Bazargan also had been arrested, but he showed up at his Tehran home Thursday, Le Monde reported.

In late May, Bazargan circulated an open letter to Khomeini accusing him of practicing "despotism worthy of the pharaohs" and making Iran a symbol of hate around the world.

Security forces subsequently

rounded up numerous sympathisers of Bazargan who had circulated their own letter, according to Le Monde and Paris-based opposition sources.

It was not clear how many arrests were made or exactly when. Le Monde suggested that several dozen people, many former ministers, could have been detained.

Le Monde said police earlier this week moved in on Bazargan's political headquarters, making arrests and, apparently, looking for Bazargan.

The letters from Bazargan and his supporters, said to have been distributed clandestinely over the past two weeks, called for negotiations to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Former Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, living here in exile, said his contacts in Iran were able to confirm that Bazargan was not under arrest.

"Our only crime is to be concerned about the dangers which threaten the existence of our country and its survival," Le Monde quoted the telegram as saying.

Bazargan, a former Iranian prime minister and parliamentary deputy, heads the Freedom Movement, the only opposition group tolerated by Khomeini's regime.

Observers say Bazargan's open letter was his strongest protest to date and had special impact because of an increasingly tense climate in Tehran after recent setbacks in the nearly eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Bazargan "has protested in the past, but not in these terms and in this situation," Bani-Sadr said in a telephone interview with the AP. "The arrests show that this letter is not like others. It reveals the condition of public opinion in

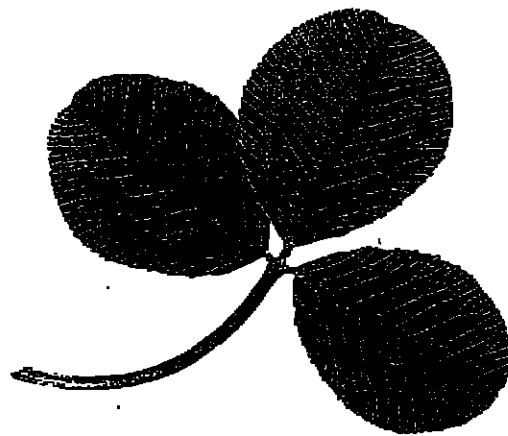


Mehdi Bazargan

Iran." On Thursday, Khomeini appointed Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani as acting commander-in-chief of Iran's armed forces. On Friday, Rafsanjani called on Iranians to take the war "more seriously."

Bani-Sadr, first president of the Islamic republic and former armed forces commander-in-chief, said the overall atmosphere in Iran was "very heavy."

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CBJ to ease controls on foreign exchange, interest

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) plans to ease controls on foreign exchange within the next few days to preempt a flight from the dinar and a run on U.S. dollars, according to the bank's Deputy Governor Dr. Maher Shukri.

"The new instructions will include more liberalisation of monetary procedures," he said in an interview which appears simultaneously in Al Rai today.

Shukri said the central bank will introduce "more flexibility to exchange rates in addition to liberalising interest rates for amounts exceeding JD 200,000."

Last Thursday's sudden run on dollars pushed the U.S. currency unit from the 365 fils mark the day before to 390 fils in the domestic exchange market. It followed a similar flurry on May 2 when the dollar reached 385 fils before the central bank intervened by selling a \$4 million.

The dollar hovered around 372.5 Saturday afternoon.

"We are watching the situation as a first step towards more liberalisation," Shukri said. "The line we are following is clear, and soon, we will adopt a procedure aimed at introducing flexibility to interest rates."

The deputy governor said the central bank has established a ceiling on interest rates for deposits and loans "in response to

what we heard from the banking system about surplus liquidity calling for lowering interest rates.

"As we adopted these preliminary measures, we were not sure that interest rates must be lowered, on the contrary," Shukri added. "We have studies showing that our interest rates are cheap."

The flight from the dinar was fuelled by speculations, reports of low foreign currency reserves, rumours of new central bank regulations and restrictions on the bank's supply of currency to the market.

On interest rate liberalisation, Shukri explained that "we will depend more on market forces to determine interest rates." This, he added, "does not mean we will stop limiting the rates but we will give more room to market forces to determine their level."

"We will not take an arbitrary decision that may negatively affect the market, institutions and the national economy," he added.

"Our conviction is that market forces are stronger than the cen-

tral bank," he continued. "If you allow these forces to be the indicators, this would be better than completely ignoring them. This is what we are trying to do."

For some time, Shukri said, the central bank had been playing the role of "big brother" for banks, setting interest and exchange rates and solving problems that arise.

"At this stage, and in line with the philosophy of an open economy stipulated by the constitution," Shukri said, "we expect Jordanian banks to take the initiative and boost the national economy by becoming the engine of growth and not only passive followers."

In another interview with the Associated Press, Shukri said loosening controls on foreign exchange should kick the dollar's price back to about 350 to 360 fils from the highs of about 390 fils reached at exchange houses Thursday.

He added that the new rules will place the emphasis on reporting rather than controls. "It will give Jordanians a little bit more leeway in holding foreign currency."

The deputy governor told the news agency that a big part of Thursday's sudden run on the dollar was "for financing capital flights" due to worries about the dinar. He reaffirmed that there will be no devaluation of the dinar.

Israeli firm strikes oil

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli firm has struck oil at a 20-year-old drilling site that could increase annual output by nearly 30 per cent for two years, Israel Radio said Friday.

It said the Lapidot oil exploration company found oil after deepening the well by 1,000 metres. It contained an estimated 70,000 barrels, yielding about 100 barrels a day.

Israel imports 97 per cent of its energy.

Prominent Jordanian brick factory to continue operations despite losses

By Shafi Nicholas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The JD 502,484 loss incurred by the Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries (JLSBI) during 1987 and the JD 2,022,389 accumulated losses of previous years represent 50.5 per cent of the company's capital.

The articles of association and the bylaws of the company stipulate that if losses exceed 50 per

cent of the capital, the company should be dissolved or voluntarily liquidated unless the general assembly decides otherwise.

According to JLSBI general manager, the general assembly voted to continue normal operations although there were calls to restructure the company's capital. The general manager did not rule out a restructuring of the finances in the future.

The auditor's report said that JLSBI was suffering from a large deficit in its working capital and that all its liabilities were overdue obligations.

The annual report of the company shows current liabilities at JD 2,007,030 and the capital accounts sat JD 2,514,207 although the paid-up capital stands at JD 4,999,500 — JD 500 less than the authorised amount.

The assets of the company are mainly machinery and equipment

estimated at JD 4,149,603. The which JD 257,913 are finished current assets total JD 333,379 of goods and raw material.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 4, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	182371	JD 276303	311
Top three companies:			
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	18260	JD 45489	61
Arab Bank Ltd.	400	JD 45615	14
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	22374	JD 38807	42
Parallel market:	29000	JD 10445	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

Omani banks' profits tumble

MUSCAT (R) — "Debt collectors — immediate vacancies," The small advertisement in Oman's English language daily, taken out by a merchant trading company, sums up the problems facing Oman's nine local and 13 foreign banks as they fight to stave off a second year of declining profits.

In a sluggish economy, still heavily dependent on the fickle world oil market, bad debts are sapping earnings at Omani companies and in turn means bank loans are turning sour.

"The need to build loan provisions is likely to continue for the time being," said John Wright, general manager and chief executive officer at Oman International Bank (OIB).

"And the overall banking market is still shrinking," he added. Banks in Oman rode out the first year of the Gulf state's recession in 1986 as oil prices plummeted, dipping briefly below \$10 per barrel.

But last year, net profits at some local operations fell by more than 40 per cent and dividends were generally cut sharp-

ly. Some bankers fear 1988 could bring another drop in earnings. That has refocused attention on long-standing merger plans which could see Bank of Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait (BOBK) join forces with another medium-sized local bank to form the second biggest group in the Gulf state.

Rumours that smaller banks will also merge are rife and bankers believe the Central Bank of Oman would welcome a cut in numbers if it led to a strengthening of the banking system.

Limited lending

The economic slowdown has reduced new lending opportunities as government contracts remain at a low ebb, banks' margins have been squeezed by high rates paid for deposits and those banks flush with funds have found few new investment outlets.

Some, such as OIB, have opted to expand branch networks to capture a growing retail market in the interior. But several banks, especially in the foreign sector, have seen traditional trade-related business stagnate.

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, May 28, '88 and Wednesday, June 1, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	970	1377	1.420	1.420	1.000
Petra Bank	13275	26151	1.970	1.970	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1391	2309	1.660	1.660	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	3590	5344	1.500	1.480	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	13656	16271	1.190	1.200	1.000
Housing Bank	2000	3438	1.710	1.720	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	150	315	2.100	2.100	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1158	17587	15.100	15.200	5.000
Arab Bank	1830	208176	114.000	114.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	13270	33266	2.490	2.510	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	2350	2384	1.100	1.000	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	14243	24917	1.990	1.990	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	64600	34270	0.510	0.530	1.000
National Financial Investments	38300	68940	1.800	1.800	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	2740	1945	0.720	0.710	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	200	276	1.390	1.380	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	7118	5359	0.780	0.760	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	70	1015	14.500	14.500	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
RESCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	300	321	1.070	1.070	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	2000	1800	0.910	0.900	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Al-Izhar Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	16863	15850	0.940	0.930	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	917	430	0.500	0.460	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	26065	10689	0.420	0.410	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	800	320	0.400	0.400	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	4100	1191	0.300	0.290	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	128	86	0.700	0.670	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	323208	59742	0.700	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/To Jecro	—	—	—	—	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	275	55	0.200	0.200	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	4313	6378	1.490	1.470	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	6180	5287	0.860	0.840	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	150	510	3.400	3.400	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	44850	18098	0.420	0.400	1.000
Jordan Dairy	4319	4324	1.000	1.000	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	6306	12622	2.000	1.980	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	99015	128509	1.330	1.300	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	2133	4949	2.280	2.320	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Itaj)	7053	9138	1.310	1.290	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	3000	12075	3.970	4.050	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	9775	11621	1.160	1.180	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	47161	82646	1.760	1.740	1.000
Jordan Worsted Mills	2332	10597	4.450	4.500	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	5608	6022	1.060	1.080	1.000
Chemical Industries	2250	3378	1.530	1.500	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	21297	13714	0.660	0.650	1.000
Dar Al Dawra for Development and Investment	1685	2525	1.450	1.500	1.000
National Steel Industries	42896	117864	2.760	2.730	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	42550	67752	1.620	1.590	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	3388	24560	7.170	7.290	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	205742	46513	0.240	0.230	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	150	51	0.320	0.330	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	5310	5673	1.100	1.070	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	4035	3106	0.760	0.770	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	1200	1396	1.190	1.160	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	1822	5546	3.080	3.050	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	111500	70463	0.630	0.630	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	635	458	0.730	0.700	1.000
Jordan Tanning	138	369	1.950	1.950	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	24	336	13.600	14.000	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	23129	22386	0.970	0.960	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	46075	35171	0.780	0.760	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	31550	76998	2.740	2.690	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	48481	54679	1.120	1.130	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	6910	6690	0.970	0.980	1.000
Grand total	1,398,529	1,416,128			

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Jordan, Iraq commence project

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Baghdad-based Jordanian-Iraqi Industry Company (JIIC) has embarked on implementing a JD 8 million project for the production of chemical detergents in the Iraqi capital, according to an announcement here Saturday.

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply Secretary-General Saqqaf, who made the announcement, said that the company's general assembly has endorsed the commencement of the project which, he said, would produce nearly 60,000 tonnes of detergents annually.

Saqqaf said the project will rely on primary materials extracted in Jordan and Iraq and will not import any such materials from other countries.

The projected detergent plant, he said, is expected to cover 50 per cent of the Iraqi needs of detergents.

Jordan and Iraq announced in February 1988 the creation of the detergent plant.

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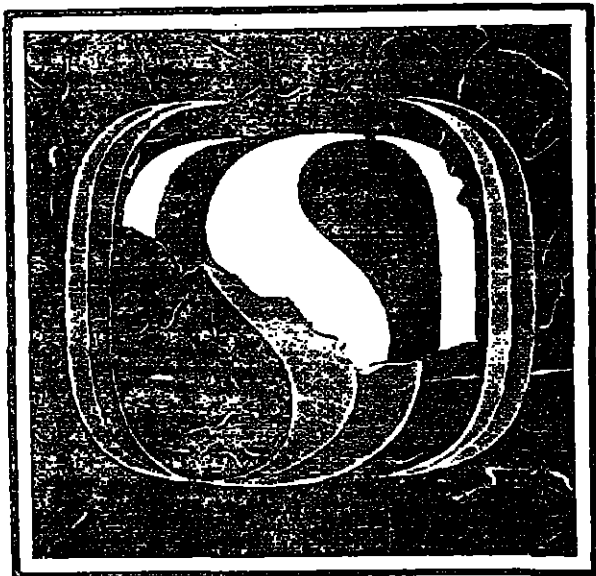
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Coming Soon



French Socialists seek more than landslide win

PARIS (R) — France's 25-day-old Socialist minority government faces the nation Sunday in the first round of a snap general election expected to give it an overwhelming parliamentary majority.

But incumbent Prime Minister Michel Rocard, a moderate Socialist, is asking much more of the country than just a firm grip on power for his party alone.

The 38 million voters, going to the polls for the third time in six weeks, are being urged to use their ballots to endorse Socialist President Francois Mitterrand's vision of a grand coalition, bringing in centrists, liberals and technocrats.

The second and final poll takes place June 12.

The once-powerful Communist Party and the far-right National Front are likely to suffer serious reverses, due to a 1986 change in the electoral law which favours big parties.

The anti-immigrant National Front's leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, is running in Marseille, where his controversial "Arabs out" campaign has dramatically raised the political profile of the Mediterranean port city for the election.

Aspin: U.S. should have used force with Noriega

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States should have used military force to remove General Manuel Antonio Noriega from power in Panama and missed its opportunity, the chairman of the house of representatives armed services committee said Friday.

"I think it may be too late to use force now because he's moving around," said representative Les Aspin.

"You don't know where he is... what we should have done at the

very beginning was use military force — not blowing a lot of people up, but to go in there and snatch him and take him out."

Aspin was interviewed on John McLaughlin's "one on one" syndicated television programme, taped for showing this weekend.

Aspin answered affirmatively when McLaughlin asked whether he favoured "surgically" removing Noriega, who has been indicted by the United States on drug charges.

Soviets demonstrate SS-20 destruction

MOSCOW (AP) — Soldiers at a military base in the Ukraine showed foreign reporters Friday how they will dismantle transports and launchers for Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles.

TASS said.

The missiles are banned under a treaty which took effect Wednesday when U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader

Mikhail Gorbachev exchanged ratification documents during the superpower summit in Moscow. The leaders signed the agreement in Washington last Dec. 8.

The treaty mandates the destruction of all superpower intermediate-range nuclear missiles, including the triple-warhead Soviet RSD-10 rockets that are known in the West as SS-20s.

N.Korea rejects South's proposal

TOKYO (R) — North Korea Saturday rejected the South's proposal made Friday for high-level talks, and criticised Seoul for ignoring its past overtures.

The Seoul government should first reply to a series of letters and messages Pyongyang had sent, said the official northern publication Minju Chosun.

The South should begin by replying to a letter sent in January calling for a joint conference, the paper said in a commentary carried by the (North) Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"It is nothing but a hypocrisy to talk about dialogue while making no reply to the letters containing proposals for a North-South joint conference and rejecting to convey the letters calling for the holding of North-South student talks," it said.

"Whether North-South relations will be improved or not, whether dialogue will be resumed or not in the future is entirely dependent on the South Korean side's attitude."

On Friday, South Korean Premier Lee Hyun-Jae called for cabinet-level talks with the North Korean government to discuss the possibility of the North's participation in the Seoul Olympics later this year and exchanges of visits.

For the government of South Korea President Roh Tae-Woo, it was the first attempt to seek some form of dialogue with the North without insisting on an apology for the alleged bombing of a southern airliner last November.

Le Pen warns that the four million people who supported his presidential election bid in April will take their protest outside parliament if the system deprives them of their voice, but a debacle looks likely nevertheless.

Mitterrand secured a second term in presidential elections last month on a promise to end rigid political divisions.

He was forced to call the election when only a handful of non-socialists agreed to join Rocard's government, which did not have enough seats to ensure survival in parliament.

In a final campaign swing through central France Friday, Rocard again pitched his speech more towards rival politicians than to voters, appealing to non-socialists to accept Mitterrand's "open-door" invitation.

The composition of the next majority in parliament would "not be fixed once and for all by the outcome on June 12," he told a crowd of about 3,000 in Le Mans.

"If, in parliamentary discussions, we can find points in common which permit a wider majority than that which emerges from the ballot box, then we'll do it," Rocard said.

"No door will ever be closed to republicans of good will."

The goal, Rocard said, was to demonstrate to the French that they could have a "stable, dynamic and pluralist" government.

Opinion polls show voters favour the idea, but distinct signs of election fatigue, in the form of empty seats at political rallies, indicate little interest in the election.

While some leading centrists say they are attracted by Mitterrand's open door, right-wing conservatives say any member who breaks ranks to join Rocard after June 12 will be committing political treason.

Six survivors emerge from W. German mine

BORKEN, West Germany (AP) — Six coal miners emerged from an explosion-shattered mine early Saturday, two days after being given up for dead, leading to hope that other missing men might still be alive, a spokesman for the mining company said.

The miners had been trapped about 100 metres underground for more than 60 hours after the Wednesday blast. In all, 57 miners were caught 15 is unknown.

"Naturally, we are hoping to find more people alive," said the spokesman for Preussen Elektra, the company that owns the Stolzenbach mine 120 kilometres northeast of Frankfurt.

The spokesman, who requested anonymity, told AP the six did not suffer serious injuries and were reunited with their families.

Hesse state radio, in live broadcasts from the scene, said

27 miners feared dead in Philippines

DIPLOLOG, Philippines (AP) — At least 27 people were believed killed when mine tunnels crudely dug on a remote mountainside caved in after heavy rains, a local official said Saturday.

One miner was rescued by other prospectors shortly after the accident Friday night, but his left leg was so badly injured doctors had to amputate it when he arrived at a hospital here Saturday, the official said.

Benito Tolentino, mayor of the municipality of Sibutad where the cave-in occurred, told reporters that lack of equipment was hampering rescue efforts on Mount Labab, 730 kilometres southeast of Manila.

Tolentino, who accompanied the unidentified survivor to report the accident to authorities, said there was little hope that any of them were still alive.

Tolentino said 28 people were working in a network of tunnels below a 15-metre-deep shaft when the surface caved in after two days of heavy rain. He said he had ordered a temporary halt to gold prospecting at the site.

Some 20,000 prospectors from different parts of Mindanao island have converged on the area since gold was discovered last September, Tolentino said. He added that at least 12 people had been killed in previous cave-ins.

Hundreds of people have been killed in similar accidents across Mindanao over the years.

Armed only with picks and shovels, the miners often work with no professional supervision. Some burrow into mountainsides while others wash dirt from gold nuggets or dust in streams using wooden pans.

the miners appeared exhausted, but otherwise relatively unscathed.

Rescue workers and state officials Thursday had given up all 57 for dead, citing high levels of carbon monoxide in the mine.

The six — five West Germans and one Turk — were in the shaft during the explosion. Fourteen of the 57 trapped miners were Turkish immigrant workers.

By late Friday, rescuers had located 36 bodies and had brought 30 to the surface, according to the company spokesman. Fifteen miners are still missing.

The radio said the six survivors were discovered in a side shaft that was not damaged by the blast.

They may have been helped by fresh air being pumped into the mine to aid the rescuers, it added.

Rescue crews discovered signs of life when they heard noises coming from the side shaft about 2 a.m. (0000 GMT), the radio said.

The trapped miners apparently banged metal objects to attract attention, the report said.

Rescuers then drilled a hole to the shaft and dropped a microphone to establish contact with the survivors.

Despite mounting losses, ANC fights on

By Greg Myre
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Battered by repeated setbacks, the African National Congress (ANC) presses on with a military campaign that has claimed few successes, but attracts a steady stream of willing fighters.

In the past year, bombings in South Africa have declined and police have claimed major breakthroughs against the guerrillas. Even ANC leaders have conceded that the group's military wing was able to operate more effectively during the widespread unrest of 1984-5.

ANC guerrillas generally operate in small groups, and have little hope of scoring conventional victories against South Africa's powerful security forces. However, the ANC says its bombing and sabotage campaign remains an essential element of its multi-pronged strategy to oust the white-ruled government.

"We must step up our attacks on the police, the army and other personnel associated with the institution (government)," ANC President Oliver Tambo said in March in Zimbabwe. "We will strike against its economic infrastructure and do much more intensively what we have been doing all the time."

However, the rhetoric has not been matched by action.

Two years ago, the ANC was claiming that it had enough popular support inside South Africa to direct a "people's power" campaign that would make the coun-

Moscow party vote seen as victory for reforms

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has secured the last-minute election of key supporters of his reform drive as delegates to this month's party conference, despite efforts by party bureaucrats to reject them.

At what was clearly a lively meeting of the Moscow party plenum Friday, a group of prominent reformers was added to the list of candidates and duly elected.

"The participants in the plenum were familiarised with every single candidate," TASS news agency reported.

"The candidates were discussed in a principled manner, sometimes pointedly, but at the same time in an extremely comradely and well-wishing way," it added.

TASS said the last-minute additions included economists Tat'yana Zaslavskaya and Gavril Popov, editor Yegor Yakovlev, historian Yuri Afanasyev and playwright Mikhail Shatrov.

All of these had their original nominations overturned at the level of the district party committees.

TASS said that while most candidates proposed by the dis-



Mikhail Gorbachev

strict committees were in line with public opinion, "certain difficulties developed in a number of party organisations."

As a result it was decided at the plenum to add the names of "prominent workers of science and culture" to the list.

The plenum was attended by Gorbachev personally, in an indication of his deep concern over the matter.

Last month, Gorbachev called for the election of active supporters of his reforms to the confer-

ence and also stressed that the choice of candidates should reflect the opinions of rank-and-file party members.

But when the selection process got under way, it became clear that some middle-ranking bureaucrats, who felt threatened by the pace of change, were succeeding in overturning the nominations of certain candidates by low-ranking party bodies.

The final outcome appeared to be a form of compromise, with the candidates chosen to replace the reformers keeping their places at the conference, which is being called on to endorse the reshaping of the Soviet political system.

Among the proposals to come under discussion at the party conference, the first of its kind since 1941, are that all state and party officials should serve no more than 10 years and that party power should be devolved to elected bodies.

It will be attended by some 5,000 delegates, 319 of whom were elected at the Moscow plenum, including Gorbachev himself and six of his colleagues on the party's ruling politburo.

Managua says 2 Honduran soldiers caught spying

MANAGUA (AP) — Nicaragua said Friday it had detained two Honduran soldiers caught spying inside Nicaraguan territory in what was sure to aggravate tense relations between the two countries.

The incident followed fighting between Sandinista troops and U.S.-supported Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras earlier in the week.

A defence ministry statement said two Honduran army troops carrying M-16 rifles were captured near Teotecacinte in northern Nuevo Segovia province, more than 2 kilometres inside Nicaragua.

The statement identified the two as Gilberto Moncada Miranda and Gustavo Adolfo Caliz Gamero of Honduras' 6th infantry battalion, based in Aguas

Calientes, Honduras.

It said the soldiers "were found doing intelligence work in our territory" and called the incident an "open violation of national security."

There was no immediate comment from the Honduran government.

On Wednesday, the Sandinista government denied Honduran claims that its soldiers crossed into Honduras to attack a border post.

The Honduran armed forces had said a number of Sandinista troops were killed in the fighting, and Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez protested the incident.

Nicaragua said contra rebels based in Honduras attacked an army patrol inside Nicaragua and that a Sandinista soldier was captured and taken to a post 10 kilometres inside Honduras.

Dukakis leads rival by 20%

WASHINGTON (R) — Front-running Democratic Presidential candidate Michael Dukakis holds a 20 per cent lead over rival Jesse Jackson for Tuesday's California primary, the ABC television network said Friday.

It said its latest tracking poll, taken June 1 and 2, showed the Massachusetts governor leading the civil rights leader 56 to 36 per cent.

Dukakis is expected to go over the necessary 2,081 delegates to clinch the presidential nomination in the California, New Mexico, Montana and New Jersey primaries.

1st Chinese auction finds few bidders

PEKING (AP) — Peking's first large-scale auction of antiques ended Friday with overpriced items going once, going twice and gone back to the warehouse. Of 33 antiques valued at \$270,000 that were put on sale, only three of the cheapest items, bought by a Japanese businessman and his friends for \$2,168, attracted bids.

"We'd buy if the prices were reasonable," said a Hong Kong businessman who left before the show ended. "But the prices are way too high. They don't know how to auction. They're starting far too high." The only bargain was the entry fee, a modest \$2.70.

Brown requests diplomatic immunity

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — The wife of soul singer James Brown has asked a judge to dismiss traffic charges against her on grounds of diplomatic immunity.

Adrienne Brown, 38, was charged with driving under the influence of drugs, speeding and criminal trespass Sept. 3. The request for a dismissal, filed by lawyer Allen W. Johnson, is based on a statement U.S. Representative D. Douglas Barnard Jr. made two years ago on James Brown appreciation day. "James is indeed our number 1 ambassador," Barnard said. "The accused's husband, James Brown, is America's number one ambassador and as such should have diplomatic immunity and such immunity extends to his wife," said the request filed in Richmond county court.

Sexual quest ends in disaster

CHICAGO (R) — A man who injected cocaine into his penis to enhance sexual performance subsequently had to have nine fingers, both legs and his penis amputated, U.S. doctors reported Friday. The case of the 34-year-old man was reported in a letter in this week's journal of the American Medical Association. The doctors who treated him said they were described the case to "warn clinicians that this route has now become a method of self-administration of cocaine." The unidentified man was treated at the New York hospital-Cornell Medical Centre in New York City for a painful erection that had persisted for three days. He told doctors he had injected cocaine into his urethra occasionally during the previous weeks "to enhance sexual performance," the letter said.

After three days of treatment the erection disappeared but the man suffered massive bruising to the skin caused by blood clots that led to gangrene. Nine of his fingers, both legs and "his necrotic penis" were amputated, the doctors said.

Haggadah fraud discovered

NEW YORK (AP) — A publisher of Hebrew books pleaded guilty to charges he sold and tried to sell counterfeit copies of the first printed Passover Haggadah, of which there is only one known edition. The defendant, Raphael Podde, 45, entered the plea Thursday during the first day of his trial in U.S. district court in Brooklyn. Podde pleaded guilty to all four counts of an indictment charging him with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and three counts of wire fraud. He faces up to 20 years in jail and a 1 million dollar fine when sentenced Aug. 12. According to the indictment, the defendants hoaxed a dealer into paying \$60,000 for a phony Haggadah, which was represented as an original of the first printed edition made in Spain in 1482.

American ice cream goes to Moscow

GLENDAL, California (AP) — The warming trend in U.S.-Soviet relations has prompted the Russians to order, out for ice cream. Baskin-Robbins ice cream announced Tuesday it has signed a licensing agreement to open its first store in a communist country, with its 31 flavours becoming available in Moscow by July.

Baskin-Robbins executives have not yet thought of Russian names for their 31 flavours, said spokeswoman Marilyn Novak. Still, "the Soviets have expressed particular interest in having plainer 'n' cream, and jamoca, almond fudge," Novak said. "They have requested those two, along with other typical American ice creams." A cone "will sell for about a ruble, or roughly \$1.60," Novak said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Pretoria threatens magazine with closure

CAPE TOWN (R) — The South African government Friday accused an anti-apartheid magazine, New Era, of being a threat to public safety and warned the publication that it could be temporarily closed or censored. New Era joins at least nine other publications which have been warned under state of emergency regulations which Pretoria says are aimed at countering "subversive propaganda." Another two anti-apartheid newspapers, the Catholic-funded New Nation and the Cape Town-based weekly South, have already been closed for varying periods. Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha issued the warning to New Era in the official government gazette.

Italian cabinet accepts U.S. F-16s

ROME (R) — The Italian cabinet has approved a plan to transfer 72 U.S. F-16 fighter-bombers from Spain to Italy, Southern Affairs Minister Remo Gaspari said Saturday. Gaspari told reporters, as he left a cabinet meeting still in progress, that the ministers had approved a proposal by Defence Minister Valerio Zanone to transfer the nuclear-capable planes to an Italian base within the next three years. Final approval for the planes depends on the consent of the Italian parliament, which is divided on the issue although officials have said they see no problems in winning acceptance. Gaspari did not mention the names of any prospective sites for the F-16s in Italy, but Italian officials have said the most likely site was the Italian air force base of Gioia del Colle in the Apulia region of southeastern Italy.

AIDS cases near 100,000 mark

GENEVA (R) — Cases of the killer disease AIDS worldwide neared the 100,000 mark Friday with the World Health Organisation (WHO) announcing a rise of 8,352 last month. The increase brought the global total to 96,433 in 136 countries. Nearly half the new cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) were reported by the United States with a tally of 61,580 compared with 57,575 a month earlier, a rise of 4,005. The WHO said the U.S. figures included cases in Puerto Rico, but did not say how many. Haiti reported 1,374 cases, an increase of 462 over its previous tally of 912 announced last September 30.

Barbie loses appeal against sentence

PARIS (R) — A Paris court Friday rejected an appeal by Klaus Barbie, the so-called "butcher of Lyon," against a life sentence handed down last year for crimes against humanity. Barbie, 74, head of the Gestapo in the French southeastern city of Lyon from 1942 to 1944, was convicted in July of mass deportations of resistance fighters and Jews. His lawyers challenged the sentence on 14 legal technicalities. But the Paris appeal court ruled that there had been no violations of judicial procedure during the two-month trial.

Nigerian MiG crashes into barracks

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — A Nigerian air force MiG crashed into a police barracks, killing the pilot and at least seven policemen, police said. One newspaper reported Saturday that 12 policemen were killed. More than 20 other policemen and one child also were badly burned in the Friday evening crash, newspapers said. The 30-year-old plane burst into flames near the city of Makurdi before crashing, the newspapers said. A major air base is located at Makurdi, 600 kilometres northeast of Lagos. The pilot, an instructor whose name was not immediately available, reportedly had radioed that he was in trouble before the crash.

UDR soldier killed in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — A member of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) was shot dead early Saturday, the eighth member of the regiment to be killed this year, police said. Lance-Corporal Michael Darcy, 28, was off duty when he was shot as he parked his car outside his home in Castlederg, 95 kilometres west of Belfast, at about 1.30 a.m. (0030 GMT). A spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary said a man was seen running from the scene of the shooting and said a major security operation had been launched to find the killer. UDR soldiers have frequently been targets for gunmen of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is waging a campaign to end British rule in northern Ireland.

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